

Iraqi tankers not to defy blockade

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraqi tankers and other cargo ships have been given new orders by Baghdad not to defy the Western blockade in the Gulf region, Bush administration officials said Monday. The decision could remove a major flashpoint from the month-old Gulf crisis. On Aug. 18, U.S. warships fired warning shots across the bows of two Iraqi tankers, but the Iraqi ships refused to stop. The U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said intelligence reports indicated Iraq had reversed earlier instructions to ship captains to ignore any attempts by U.S. and other warships to search them in the volatile region. The officials confirmed a report by CBS television that the captains had been told to allow U.S. and other ships to stop their vessels and board and search them if requested. The reported order followed to allow warships to use minimal force to implement U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq. U.S. officials declined immediate official comment on the report. President George Bush has said repeatedly that U.S. warships are shadowing any suspicious Iraqi ships moving through the Gulf and Red Sea.

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Yemen launches mediation effort

SANAA (R) — Yemen is sending envoys to Moscow, Tehran and the United Arab Emirates in an attempt to find a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis, the Yemeni news agency (SABA) reported Monday. The agency said Industry Minister Mohammad Said Al Attar had left for the UAE and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Abdul Aziz Al Dali, went to Iran. It also reported that Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Arian would leave Tuesday for Moscow. The envoys were expected to deliver messages from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the heads of state of the three countries and discuss ways of heading off military confrontation in the Gulf. In Yemen's southern city of Ta'iz thousands of protesters took to the streets Monday in a display of solidarity with Baghdad in its confrontation with the U.S.-led foreign forces. Radio Sanaa said the protesters sent messages to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his Yemeni counterpart expressing readiness to join "forces defending the Arab will and struggling with the Iraqi people."

King sends messages to Gulf leaders

SALALAH (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi Monday conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'ud of Oman. The message deals with the current situation in the Arab Gulf region. Qasbi arrived in Oman Monday after a similar mission to Bahrain and later proceeded to the United Arab Emirates.

Ships being searched in the Red Sea

AQABA (Petra) — A Saint Vincent ship docked at Aqaba port Monday, unloaded and then left the port, the Jordan ports corporation director General Awad Al Tal said. He said the ship was strictly searched at the entrance to the Gulf by the U.S. navy and then was allowed to sail. Another Indian ship carrying goods from Europe arrived at the port, Tal said. He added the ship was stopped for inquiry on its shipment and then was allowed to sail. Official sources in Aqaba said that S.G.M. Paris, a ship carrying car spare parts, was prevented by the U.S. navy from entering Aqaba port to unload. The sources said they received a message from the ship informing them that the ship was prevented also from unloading at Saudi and Egyptian ports.

Yemen says British consul can stay

LONDON (R) — Yemen has agreed to allow a British diplomat it had accused of spying in Aden to finish his tour of duty in the country, the Foreign Office said Sunday. Consul-General Doug Gordon was given 48 hours to leave Saturday, apparently after photographing a refinery and military sites, but a Foreign Office spokesman said he could now stay. "The ambassador has been told by the minister of foreign affairs in Sanaa that Mr. Gordon may remain until the end of his tour of duty and leave in the normal way," the spokesman said.

Bangladesh foreign minister plans visit

DHAKA (AP) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said Monday he would visit five Gulf states this week to check on the fate of about 100,000 Bangladeshis in Kuwait and Iraq. Mahmud, however, said he was not visiting Iraq. A government spokesman earlier said the minister was scheduled to visit Iraq during his week-long Gulf tour. "I have no plans to visit Baghdad," Mahmud told a news conference. Mahmud is expected to leave Tuesday for the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran and Turkey.

Iraq jams Western broadcasts

LONDON (R) — Iraq is jamming Western radio transmissions to the Gulf but the stations are stepping up broadcasts to thwart Baghdad in a battle of the airwaves. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Voice of America (VoA) said Monday Iraq was jamming their Arabic language broadcasts to the Gulf. Bill Whitacre, chief of VoA and the external services of West German, Swedish and Japanese radio stations were adding frequencies to get their broadcasts through.

Muslims cannot accept U.S. forces in S. Arabia — Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Monday the presence of U.S. forces on Saudi territory was the most dangerous act of aggression against Arabs and Muslims since the dawn of Islam. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassam as urging all Arabs, Muslims and people of good will in the world to exert extraordinary efforts to "diminish the American aggressors from the area."

U.S. expels Iraqi diplomats, France seeks U.N. measures

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The State Department, retaliating against the Iraqi crackdown against the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, Monday ordered a two-thirds reduction in the Iraqi embassy staff. It also limited the remaining Iraqi diplomats in Washington to a 40-kilometer radius of Washington. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the Iraqi embassy staff was being reduced from 55 to 19. Those expelled included seven diplomats and 29 members of the non-diplomatic staff. In addition the department imposed close controls on Iraqi embassy funds to finance the education of Iraqi students in the United States. Tutwiler said the actions were being taken in response to a list of Iraqi actions since the Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, including the "illegal order for all embassies in Kuwait to shut down."

U.N. chief: Time ripe for mediation

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Now that the Security Council has authorized military force to cut off Iraq trade, Secretary-General Javir Perez de Cuellar said Monday the time was right for a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis. Perez de Cuellar will fly out Wednesday for talks Thursday in Amman, where Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. The talks will deal with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and detention of hostages, among other subjects. Early Saturday morning, the Security Council voted to authorize the use of military force by the United States and other foreign naval forces patrolling the Gulf to halt ships bound to or from Iraq. Hours later Perez de Cuellar offered to meet with Iraqi officials. Aziz said the U.N. chief is "always welcome" in Baghdad. That was a fifth resolution adopted overwhelmingly by the council since Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait; various resolutions condemned the attack, demanded the withdrawal of the Iraqi army and release of all foreign hostages, and the financial and trade embargo, and rejected Iraq's offer with Kuwait. Perez de Cuellar said Monday that there are present plans to go to Bagdad, but his spokeswoman, Nadia Oumes, has stressed that all talks are open. Iraq has rejected the Security Council resolutions, and Aziz has called the council "a pawn" of the United States.

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to shut down by last Friday but the United States and a number of other countries have defied the order. A reduced staff remains at the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, continuing to carry out their duties even though electricity and power have been shut off. The U.S. action was disclosed at a morning meeting to Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al Mashat by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. No measures were taken against the Iraqi embassy at the United Nations. Tutwiler said the expulsions and restrictions would take effect "as expeditiously as possible." France has meanwhile called on the United Nations to send a mission to Kuwait to protect foreign diplomats there from Iraqi forces, the French Foreign Ministry said Monday. It said it had requested a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to approve the plan. The move was made in consultation with France's partners in the 12-nation European Community (EC), a statement said. France, one of the Security Council's five permanent members, "requests that a U.N. mission go to Kuwait to help re-establish the normal functioning of diplomatic missions and guarantee their inviolability," the statement said. It gave no indication when the session might take place. About two dozen embassies in Kuwait have defied Iraq's order to close following its takeover of Kuwait. Water and power to the missions has been cut off and the Foreign Ministry said the French embassy had been encircled by Iraqi troops and its boundary wall smashed down. Official French sources said at the weekend that a proposal to send U.N. peacekeeping troops to protect the embassies was being considered. France has supported five Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. The last one au-

Arafat proposes Arab force to Kuwait, elections

BAGHDAD (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday proposed that an Arab peacekeeping force be deployed in Kuwait for six months to replace Iraqi troops while elections are held. Arafat, who arrived Saturday with Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, made his proposals in meetings with senior Iraqi officials, according to sources close to the talks who spoke on condition they not be identified. The proposal is designed to defuse tensions arising after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2. The elections, to be held within six months, would establish a new political system in Kuwait. Sources said the system would be similar to Monte Carlo, a constitutional monarchy which has signed a convention granting certain administrative rights to France. The new sheikhdom would be semi-autonomous under the plan. The PLO has said it was necessary to find a quick settlement to the conflict to avoid war and refocus international attention on the Palestinian issue. Although the PLO has publicly criticized the takeover of Kuwait, it also has criticized the Western intervention in the region. The position has prompted widespread criticism of the PLO in the West and in Gulf Arab allies of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the source of much of the PLO's financial support. An estimated one million Palestinians live and work in those countries, including about 300,000 in Kuwait. Many of these have been leaving the country since the trouble started. Sources at the PLO headquarters in Tunis said the proposals aim at freezing the military buildup in the Gulf, then the bilateral withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the U.S.-led multinational force from Saudi Arabia. Then, negotiations could begin between Kuwait and Iraq under Arab League auspices. Abed Rabbo said Monday that the PLO welcomed the participation of other countries in the peace effort. He said the PLO was open to any suggestions "based on the package settlement President Saddam Hussein had proposed." Saddam has proposed a settlement of the Kuwait issue in return for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Washington has rejected that initiative. The PLO and Iraq view the rejection as a double standard being applied by the United States in its dealings with the Middle East. A diplomatic source claimed Monday that Iraq was mistreating Palestinians and this is turning up the heat in a PLO debate over its initial support for Iraq. However, a PLO source dismissed the claim as "American propaganda." The diplomatic source said many returning Palestinians are "very bitterly anti-Saddam" because they lost their possessions when they fled after the takeover of Kuwait.

Moscow's stance on Gulf crisis angers Jordanians, including leftists

By Lai K. Alndoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Moscow's support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 665 allowing use of force to impose an embargo against Iraq has got way for unprecedented spread Jordanian frustration and disappointment over the Soviet Union's peevish appeasement of Baghdad at the expense of Arab feelings. Leftist Janian activists told the Jordan Times Monday that politicians were considering organizing a march to the Soviet embassy in the next few days, he match takes place it will mark the first-ever popular Janian protest against Soviet policy in the region. Although Jordanians had complained about Soviet unwillingness to provide the Arab world with similar support that U.S. renders Israel, there were very few arguments mostly by the Islamists — which perceived Moscow as a hostile power. Even following the shift in the Soviet foreign policy, which accompanied Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika and the subsequent Soviet withdrawal of support for Third World allies and national liberation movements, many Jordanians, according to analysts, were hoping that Moscow would not completely abandon its old friends. "People were becoming sarcastic and bitter about Soviet policies but they did not expect Moscow to go as far as conceding to all of the U.S. demands and positions," a Jordanian leftist said. Right from the outset of the Gulf crisis many Jordanians were stunned by Moscow's lining up with Washington against Iraq. "We did not expect Moscow to condone the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, but to support unprecedented resolutions which provide cover for American domination of and actions in the area is unjustifiable," said an activist who belongs to a Marxist Palestinian group. The last straw proved to be Moscow's vote last Saturday in support of the use of force to impose the embargo against Iraq. On Sunday the Arabic press, for the first time since the mid-fifties, lashed out at Moscow's position. Leading Jordanian writers and columnists accused Gorbachev of "selling out to the West." "We do not care anymore how the Soviet Union votes, for he (Gorbachev) who destroys his country's power at own will, and hands it over to the imperialists as a fourth grade power, is definitely capable of undermining Soviet relations with the Third World countries," wrote Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i. Masarweh, Bader Abdul Haq, and Abdul Rahim Omar — three writers who had previously defended Soviet policies — attacked Moscow in unusually harsh words. "In these happy days of the perestroika... the Soviet representative at the U.N. is almost unable to raise his voice if he does not get a prior permission from the American master who has become the exclusive leader of the world," Abdul Haq said bitterly. Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze's later statements about Moscow's desire to play a mediating role were viewed by some analysts as an indication that the Soviet Union might be concerned about its long-term interests in the Arab World. The Soviet statement almost went unnoticed in Jordan as most people appeared still gripped by feelings of disappointment and even anger. Although the press attack against the Soviet Union's policies is the first of its kind by leading Jordanian writers, it reflects an accumulation of disappointments in recent Soviet positions, particularly after Moscow allowed the massive emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. "The Soviet Union pursued its policies despite repeated Arab requests and appeals that the Soviet Jewish emigration

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King pursues consultations with Maghreb leaders

Jordan, Libya share common views on Gulf; Monarch in Tunis, due in Algiers

TUNIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday continued his efforts to arrive at an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and held talks with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali shortly after his arrival in Tunis from Libya where he met with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. He was scheduled to leave for Algeria later Tuesday. In Tunis, the King also met with Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials. A Jordanian official accompanying the King said the Tripoli talks resulted in Jordanian-Libyan consensus on the need to launch an initiative to solve the Gulf crisis. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the King's talks with Qadhafi "showed that both sides held identical views, calling for an Arab solution which would help the Arabs avert a real catastrophe in the Gulf." King Hussein and Qadhafi reviewed the "whole situation in the Gulf and the root causes that led to the crisis and King Hussein presented his views and the steps to be taken to contain the problem," Petra said. King Hussein visited Qadhafi's home, which was damaged in an American attack in 1986. He wrote in a special register placed there noting that he was deeply moved by what he saw as a result of the "outrageous raid" that caused the death of one of Qadhafi's daughters. He condemned the raid, "which was directed against free people and aimed at imposing hegemony over nations." The King said the Arab World "is now facing dangerous challenges and hostile intentions from within and without, but with God's help it will come out victorious." "The time will come when people will deal with one another on the basis of mutual respect and when peace and justice will prevail, but for that to be achieved the honourable people of the world will have to pursue the struggle to safeguard human dignity and have to offer sacrifices to defend their rights and their homeland," the King said. Petra said that the King's talks with Ben Ali were to cover the situation in the Gulf and means of averting a military confrontation. King Hussein, who is making his first visit to Tunisia since 1979, is accompanied on the current tour by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh. King Hussein was also expected to visit Morocco and Mauritania and possibly a number of European nations during his current tour. The King also met with Palestinian Ambassador to Tunisia Hakam Bal'awi and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's advisor Basam Abu Sharif. "King Hussein entrusted Bal'awi and Abu Sharif with conveying to Arafat the nature of the mission he is carrying out in his tour to crystallise joint Arab stands to solve the Gulf crisis," Petra said.

Gorbachev wants Iraq to back out

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday it was now up to Iraq to find a way out of the crisis caused by its takeover of Kuwait, TASS news agency reported. Gorbachev, in talks with visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, described the situation in the Gulf as extremely dangerous and Baghdad was in a "dead end." "Political means are not exhausted, but maximum effort is needed to avert an armed conflict," TASS quoted him as saying. Gorbachev also emphasised "the necessity of bringing the Arab factor to bear more strongly" on Iraq, TASS said. "The circumstances are such that Arabs should show their ability to unify quickly and to make joint decisions in their own interests and in the interests of the whole world," TASS paraphrased Gorbachev as saying. "This would be highly appreciated by the international community," he added. "Iraq should draw the right conclusions from the solidarity expressed by the world community, should not deepen the crisis, but seek for itself a way out of this dead end," Gorbachev said. Egyptian radio said Sunday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had sent Abdul Meguid to Moscow for a 48-hour visit. At the same time, Abdul Meguid's number two, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali, went to Paris with a letter for President Francois Mitterrand. The Soviet Union, Iraq's largest supplier of weapons prior to Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait, has been maintaining broad diplomatic contacts to try to defuse the crisis and achieve a political settlement. But Moscow was quick to denounce the takeover and after a week of intense contacts Saturday backed a U.N. resolution authorising limited use of force by naval forces massed in the region. After a two-day visit to Moscow by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, France and the Soviet Union issued a joint statement at the weekend urging Iraq to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi held two days of talks here last week, as did a senior Saudi envoy. Moscow's special envoy in the Middle East met in Baghdad on Sunday with Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, who urged the Soviet Union to play a greater role in resolving the crisis.

Flow steady across border but officials expect tide

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The regulated flow of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq continued at a steady pace across the Al Ruweished Monday, but officials forecast a massive influx in the next few days. A total of 12,267 arrived Monday by the border post, and another 568 landed at Queen Alia International Airport aboard flights from Baghdad, an official statement said. A breakdown of the Al Ruweished arrivals showed that the list was led by Egyptians (5,465), followed by Bangladeshis (3,056), Indians (2,246), Filipinos (1,799), Pakistanis (647), Chinese (607), Syrians (389), Yemenis (233), Thais (227), Yugoslavs (146), Lebanese (101), and Sudanese (9). Border officials said the process was proceeding smoothly, but that all indications were that the numbers could rise dramatically in the next few days. One official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said border authorities were informed by their Iraqi counterparts that up to a quarter million people could cross in the next 10 to 12 days. "They have indicated that they will cooperate with us to their best ability, but if too much pressure builds on their side they will be helpless but to exceed our present ceiling of 20,000," he said. Jordan closed the border Wednesday midnight and reopened Friday after streamlining the crossing process but setting a limit of 20,000 arrivals every day. "Anyone above the ceiling will have to stay back at the Iraqi side for the next day," the official said Monday. However, the "next day" actually means very little since the border is practically open 24 hours, and the daily counts are given on a midnight to midnight basis. Asian diplomats said they were hoping that the opening of the Iraqi-Iranian border, announced Sunday in Tehran but not confirmed by Baghdad, will have a significant easing effect on the

Manglapus transits Jordan today on Baghdad mission

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus passes through Amman Tuesday in a mission to Iraq aimed at facilitating the evacuation of the estimated 40,000 Philippine nationals stranded in Kuwait. Manglapus has already visited Tehran and secured Iranian permission to open its border to allow foreigners to leave Iraq. Manglapus, who was originally scheduled to arrive Monday but had to take a detour through Dubai after a Tehran-Damascus flight was cancelled, will now seek Iraqi permission for his people in Kuwait to leave by ferryboat to one of the Iranian ports in the Gulf, according to Philippine Ambassador to Jordan Pacifico Castro. "We are hoping that we could get permission for a ferry link from Kuwait to Bandar Khomeini," Castro told the Jordan Times. According to marine experts, the best port to take in evacuees from Kuwait will be Umm Al Qasr in Iraq's south. The other major Iraqi port, Basra, remained closed because the Shatt Al Arab, the waterway which marks the border between Iran and Iraq, is clogged with wreckage of naval vessels sunk during the initial days of the Gulf war in 1980. "We can also take our people to Abadan for onward flights home," Castro told the Jordan Times. However, he said, Manila had not framed its final decision on any specific plan, including a possible transfer of its people aboard a passenger vessel from Bandar Khomeini. Several other Asian countries are looking forward to the result of Manglapus' talks in Baghdad since they could also be the beneficiaries of an open Iraqi-Iranian border and Kuwait-Iran sea links to evacuate their nationals. These include India, which Manglapus visited en route to Tehran, Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as Sri Lanka — representing a total of about 400,000 potential evacuees. Iran has not specified the nationalities that it would allow in, but it was widely believed that it would permit all nationalities. "For humanitarian considerations, the Islamic Republic of Iran agrees to the transit of foreign residents of Kuwait and Iraq through its borders," Foreign Minister Akbar Velayati was quoted as telling Manglapus in a meeting Sunday. Over 2,500 Philippine nationals are now in Jordan awaiting flights home. Over 1,200 have already been flown home, Castro said. The government is providing free passage aboard special Philippine Airlines aircraft flown to Amman, he added. In addition to the 40,000 who live in Kuwait, another 10,000 Philippine nationals work in Iraq. Manila's embassy in Kuwait has advised its nationals to leave. Another purpose of Manglapus' visit, which includes a return to Amman on Thursday after talks in Baghdad with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, is substitute oil purchasing arrangements against Iraq in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Manglapus has already clinched the deal with Iran during his visit.

Iraq not to attend Cairo talks, opposes league transfer

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iraq has told the Arab League it would boycott an Egyptian-arranged Arab foreign ministers conference in Cairo this week, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Monday.

Egypt's state-run agency reported the Iraqi decision in a dispatch from Tunis, where the 21-member Arab League is headquartered.

The report quoted unidentified Arab diplomats as saying that 11 members of the League have agreed to attend the emergency conference Thursday.

This would constitute the quorum necessary to convene the session. The League charter requires an absolute majority.

Esmat Abdul Meguid, Egypt's foreign minister, told reporters on Sunday that Egypt does not want the meeting "for confrontation" with Iraq and would be pleased if it became a forum for reconciliation.

But Iraq's reported decision to boycott would appear to eliminate this possibility.

Egypt requested that the League council session at foreign minister level to hear a report from Secretary-General Chadi Klibi on implementation of an Arab summit resolution on Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

The summit, held in Cairo on Aug. 10, demanded that Iraq withdraw immediately from Kuwait and restore its overthrown government headed by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. The measure also sanctioned dispatching a joint Arab force to Saudi Arabia.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo and Egypt requested the

ministerial meeting to put pressure on Iraq.

The summit resolution required Klibi to report to the League council within 15 days.

The Egyptian agency said countries agreeing to the ministerial session so far are Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Lebanon, Djibouti and Somalia in addition to Egypt.

In Tunis, diplomatic sources said Iraq had blocked plans for the transfer of Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo because of Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz proposed that a decision in principle taken last March to move the headquarters to the Egyptian capital be reexamined by League foreign ministers at a scheduled meeting next month, the source said.

The source said Aziz especially criticised what he called the partiality of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during the Aug. 10 Arab summit. At the Cairo meeting, a majority of Arab leaders lined up against Iraq, supported United Nations sanctions against Baghdad and decided to send troops to the Gulf.

Baghdad has accused Mubarak, who chaired the meeting, of abjuring it straight after the resolution condemning the takeover was adopted and preventing further debate.

Aziz is chairman of the committee set up in March to implement the decision in principle to shift the headquarters of the 21-member league from the Tunisian capital.

Mubarak, predicting use of

force in the Gulf crisis, said Saddam had put himself in a tight corner and may face problems if he pulls out of Kuwait.

Mubarak said on U.S. television Sunday "force may be used because for the first time in 50 or 60 years all the countries all over the world agree on one point — agree they are against invasion of Kuwait, against occupying Kuwait by Iraq."

"I feel that something is going to happen," he said in a CBS satellite interview from Egypt.

Mubarak said Saddam was in a corner and could lose face in the Arab World if he pulled out of Kuwait.

"To withdraw again from Kuwait easily it will be a disaster. I think he (Saddam) is going to meet terrible problems if he did that now. That's why he's very obstinate... he put himself in a very tight corner," Mubarak said.

The Egyptian president said the buildup of U.S. and other military forces in the Gulf was part of "a very sensitive and dangerous" situation and again called on Saddam to give in to world pressure and withdraw from Kuwait.

Egypt undertook its own diplomatic efforts, sending top envoys to Moscow and Paris over the weekend.

Mubarak contended that Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, widely seen as an ally of Saddam, was losing credibility because of the group's position on the Gulf standoff.

"Overall he lost lots of credibility all over this part of the world... I can't say that he's finished but his curve went down sharply," Mubarak said.

Aziz: U.S. trying to take over oil supply

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has accused the United States of imperialism in the Gulf, saying that President George Bush wanted to take over the region's oil reserves.

At the same time, he denied that Baghdad intended to "hijack" the world's oil supply.

"The American administration wants to put its hands on the oil resources in this region and decide the policy of oil... this is an imperialist, American policy," he said in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) broadcast from Baghdad.

"They have come and they have taken over Saudi Arabia. They have taken over the Emirates, Qatar and other parts of the region to enforce their policies on us. This is unacceptable, not only by us, but the whole Arab Nation," Aziz said.

Warning that Iraq was "capable of inflicting huge damage," Aziz said Baghdad's reaction to any American aggression would be "fierce."

Bush ordered a U.S. military buildup in the region after Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2. U.S. officials said the deployment was needed to end Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and "defend" against any Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia.

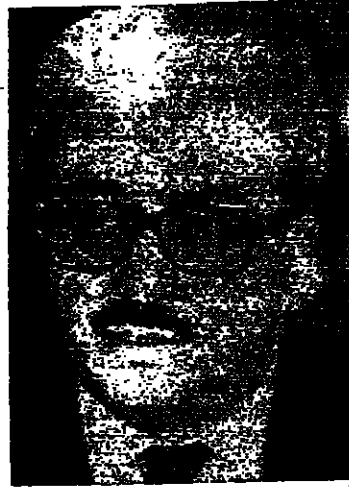
Whether or not war erupts was "up to Mr. Bush to decide," Aziz said. Iraq, he said, would not initiate hostilities against Saudi Arabia or the American forces deployed on the Saudi border with Kuwait.

Aziz said Westerners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait were "guests" of the Iraqi government.

"We have invited those people as guests, put them within complexes, compounds, civilian, living with our families, near them. They are serving a noble cause. If they will prevent the American genocide against us, then they are serving a noble cause," Aziz told CNN.

The foreign minister said the issue of Kuwait's future had to be discussed and resolved within an Arab framework.

"The Americans have to leave



Tariq Aziz

this to the Arab World. The Arab World can handle it," Aziz said, adding that the U.S. government had not given Arabs enough time to find a solution before deploying its troops.

"The situation is complicated with the American presence. It's complicated with American threats to Iraq. It's complicated with the American blockade against Iraq, and such complications do not provide the necessary climate for a serene discussion of the present volatile situation in the region," Aziz said.

Iraq media blast Soviets after Security Council vote

BAGHDAD (AP) — A leading Iraqi newspaper Monday criticised the Soviet Union for supporting the U.N. economic embargo against Iraq and the resolution demanding Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait.

The government-owned daily Al Jumhuriya said Moscow had become an "obedient follower of the United States."

Al Jumhuriya said the Soviet Union under President Mikhail Gorbachev has relinquished its role as a superpower supporting the peoples of the world and receded to a fourth-rate power.

"When the Soviet Union was a great country with leaders capable of hitting the U.N. podium with their heavy voices, peoples of the world could rely on it and trust its pledges, the newspaper said, referring to old war era of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

"But now, after the Soviet Union has turned into a paper bear, the peoples of the world should only rely on themselves," it said.

The daily said Moscow was blindly following the United States and its move against Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

The Soviet Union asked Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and called for a peaceful solution to the crisis. Moscow has supported U.N. resolutions imposing economic sanctions against Iraq and authorising the use of limited force to enforce the trade embargo. It has also asked to Baghdad to let foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq leave.

A total of about 9,000 Soviet citizens are believed to have been stranded in Iraq and Kuwait.

On Thursday, Baghdad allowed two flights carrying about 200 Soviet citizens, mostly the families of Soviet diplomats, to leave the country aboard special Aeroflot flights. Other flights scheduled for Friday and Saturday were not allowed to land.

A group of about 50 Soviet citizens scheduled to arrive early Tuesday in Moscow from Baghdad were delayed. The Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow did not provide any reason for the delay.

Shamir denies more U.S. pressure for peace after Gulf crisis

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has denied that Israel will face greater pressure to make peace with the Palestinians as a result of the Gulf crisis.

But Israel's ambassador to Egypt said Arab states backing the United States against Iraq will demand a tougher line from Washington against its closest Middle East ally.

"All these years there has been talk about pressure on Israel. Israel is not under pressure. This will be the case in the future too," Shamir said when asked about the issue.

"Israel is Israel... it must remain loyal to its interests," the prime minister said on Israel television's Arabic service.

The Jewish state has gained a valuable respite as the world's attention shifted from the 32-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories to the Gulf. A month ago, an impatient

U.S. administration was demanding that Israel prove it was willing to talk peace.

These days Israeli officials are privately applauding the widespread Palestinian support for Iraq, saying it will alleviate U.S. pressure on Israel to make future concessions.

But Ambassador to Egypt Shimon Shamir, who announced his resignation in July because of differences with Shamir's extreme rightist government, predicted the opposite outcome.

He said the United States would have to repay Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other states for their precious support against Iraq.

"The peace process... will be different when the crisis is over. The high level of joint activities between the United States, Egypt and Arab countries like Saudi Arabia creates obligations that will affect the peace process," Shimon Shamir said.

The ambassador, a leading

academic on Middle East affairs, will leave his post next month. Analysts said his embarrassing resignation was influenced by the prime minister's reluctance to accept proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

"Israel better be prepared for it... Arab states will claim they cooperated to destroy the unjustified (Iraqi) occupation of an area. In their conception, it is the same case in the (Israeli-occupied) territories," the ambassador said.

The secretariat of the leftist Citizens' Rights Movement (CRM) held a heated debate Sunday over its future line.

"I am very disappointed in the Palestinians. I would have preferred they go with (Egyptian President) Mubarak to say they are against any occupation," CRM parliamentary Shulamit Aloni told reporters after the meeting.

"We have a very serious problem," she added.

'Waite's release is next'

BEIRUT (AP) — A Beirut radio station said Monday that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite would be the next hostage to be freed by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon.

The Communist-run Voice of the People also said all remaining American hostages would be freed once Iran's frozen assets in the United States are released.

The station, respected for its balanced reporting and investigative work, said it drew the conclusions from interviews with Iranian and Syrian officials as well as Shiite Muslim leaders after the release of five Western hostages in the past four months.

The latest to be freed was Irish teacher Brian Keenan, who was set free Friday and is undergoing medical tests in a Dublin hospital.

The first two were Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, freed 10 days apart in April.

Swiss orthopaedic specialists of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Emanuel Christen and Elio Enriquez, were released respectively Aug. 8 and 13 after 10 months in captivity.

"Sources familiar with the hostage issue are certain that Terry Waite is the next in line for freedom over Keenan," the station said in a 15-minute evaluation of the hostage issue.

Waite disappeared after leaving a west Beirut hotel Jan. 20, 1987, for a rendezvous with Islamic Jihad, a group which claims to hold American hostages Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland.

Iran says PoW exchange will continue to last man

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday that Tehran and Baghdad had agreed to free every Iraqi and Iranian prisoner captured during the 1980-88 Gulf war.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi told the Iranian news agency IRNA that the agreement was reached in talks between officials of the two countries at the Iranian town of Khorramshahr on the Iraqi border.

He said a committee of Iranian and Iraqi experts and the International Committee of the Red Cross would ensure that all prisoners held by both sides were repatriated.

Sarmadi said Iraq, assisted by the Red Cross, would release 1,000 Iranian prisoners each day as of Tuesday.

Iraq said Sunday it had sent back all registered Iranian prisoners and had asked the Red Cross to list those not previously counted. The Iraqi News Agency did not say how many PoWs were still in Iraq, but by late Saturday Baghdad and Tehran had each freed 16,000 prisoners.

Earlier Monday the radical Tehran newspaper Jomhuri Eslami said in an editorial that a drop in the number of prisoners repatriated to Iraq by Iraq would harm Baghdad.

The editorial, carried by IRNA which is received in Cyprus, said: "The move could pose a danger on the acceptable and logical trend of the past days. This is not in the interest of either side and is more detrimental to Iraq than to Iran. It is not yet clear what the Iraqi government is pursuing through this move."

According to the Red Cross there were about 20,000 PoWs registered in Iraq and 50,000 registered in Iran when the August 1988 ceasefire halted fighting.

The United Nations estimates that another 10,000 PoWs might be held by Iraq and a further 20,000 by Iran.

The prisoners swap began Aug. 17 after Iraq accepted Iran's terms for peace in the Gulf two days earlier.

Baghdad said it was moving troops from frontlines with Iran to bolster its forces facing a build up of U.S. and other foreign troops in Saudi Arabia following Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Abandoned cars now landmarks in desert

KHAFJI, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Desert nomads dashing to the Saudi border with refugees from Kuwait have hundreds of new landmarks to guide them as they evade a gauntlet of Iraqi soldiers.

"Now we are using the abandoned cars as a sign of where to go," said Abdullah Al Ajmi, a bedouin guide who planned Monday to make his next foray into Kuwait.

Aside from the hundreds of stranded cars left by escapees, the nomads rely on trees, telegraph poles and geography on the dangerous journey.

"I know not to turn, at say the first hill but at the second hill," said Ajmi, thinking of his routes.

"I know the desert very well from hunting trips before the invasion."

Tens of thousands of refugees arrived across the desert sands in the first three weeks after Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Although refugees still come across the border, the town has largely fallen silent. The only sound at midday is a rope flapping against an aluminum flagpole.

With buildups of more than 100,000 troops on both sides of the border, the Saudi government over the weekend declared all but the official border crossing a closed military area.

"This is the new policy," said Governor Khalid Al Otaishan, before entering a meeting with Saudi and American military officers.

There are constant consultations about plans in case of attack.

A Saudi official in Dhahran, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Saudi army is fanning out along the front lines with the Americans at least 40 kilometres behind them.

"We would never put Americans up near the border. That could be disastrous politically," the official said. "If there are going to be casualties a Saudi will have to die first."

Baghdad shopkeepers say they can beat blockade

By Patrick Cockburn of the Independent

BAGHDAD — Shopkeepers and their customers in north Baghdad's Adhamiya district poured scorn Sunday over ideas that the United Nations embargo would create shortages severe enough to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

"For the next six or four months there will be difficulty," said a man buying a bag of rice. "And after six years of war with Iran we used to go short."

A butcher selling lamb at 8.5 Iraqi dinars (\$27) a kilogramme said all the meat came from Iraq. Nevertheless Iraqis had to reduce food rations for their 18 million people from 1.1 in order to withstand an embargo, which has systematically cut all its links with the outside world apart from a single land line through Jordan. Iraq had expected to import 70 per cent of food this year.

Ration cards will be issued to people in each area, enabling them to buy enough bread, flour, rice and cooking oil at a fixed price. Less essential goods will be sold at free market prices.

For the moment the mood in Baghdad is high. The crisis over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait has still to make an impact on the daily lives of the five million people in the capital. There are numerous men in the street in olive-green military uniform but that was a common sight beforehand.

Yet there are signs of tension: An acute hunger for hard currency and the extreme apprehension in the expatriate community — not just "Westerners" but the 500,000 Egyptians who support their families by sending remittances home.

Iraqis have got used to the idea that Kuwait was always part of Iraq, separated from its motherland only by foreign conspiracy. This would limit the room for manoeuvre of the government if it were ever to withdraw.

Indonesia offers to mediate in Gulf crisis

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia has offered to mediate the Gulf crisis, Kuwait's top oil minister, Rasheed Salem Ameer, said Monday.

"President (Suharto) has offered that Indonesia mediate between Iraq and Kuwait in an attempt to resolve the issue," Ameer told reporters during a visit to Jakarta.

"Of course, I am in position now to immediately respond to him. This message will be conveyed to my government."

He said Suharto, who had condemned Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, had not given any details.

The Indonesian government, while following U.N. Nations sanctions against Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait, has tried to avoid taking sides. It was Suharto's first reported comment on the crisis.

Ameer said his government had been very surprised by the backing given to Iraq by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to whom Kuwait has given financial support.

"It did have some benefits. It did show us who are our good friends and who are our enemies who have been concealing themselves just to get support from Kuwait," Ameer said.

Ameer, whose next stop on his Asian tour is Singapore, reiterated Kuwait's wish that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) increase production to make up for the four million barrels of oil lost each day to the market.

OPEC ministers are currently meeting in Vienna with Kuwait represented by its finance and former oil minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah.

Group of Americans arrive in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Dependents of U.S. staffers from the Kuwait embassy who were allowed to leave Iraq arrived in this southern Turkish city Monday, a U.S. embassy spokesman here said.

The spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said all but three of the 55 dependents in the 11-car convoy entered Turkey early Monday through the Habur border post.

The Americans were transferred onto two buses which took them to Diyarbakir, 195 kilometres to the northwest of the border, for some rest, he said.

The 680-kilometre journey from Baghdad to Diyarbakir took

an unusually long 27 hours because of difficult terrain and red tape on the Iraqi side, the spokesman said.

"The trip was very tiring, very long and very distressing. Now they are washing up and resting," he said.

Reporters were not allowed to get close to the Americans.

The U.S. State Department in Washington said three young males were detained by Iraqi border guards. Their identities were not given. It was not clear on what grounds Iraq detained them.

Sheila Austrian, spokeswoman in the U.S. embassy in Ankara, said the United States had protested

to Baghdad.

Austrian told reporters in Diyarbakir the evacuees would fly to Incirlik, a NATO airbase, 530 kilometres west of Diyarbakir before returning home.

On Sunday, the Italian Foreign Ministry reported that one of three Italians with diplomatic passports who were attached to the mission in Kuwait was denied permission to leave Iraq apparently because he was a male. The other two, women, were allowed to cross into Jordan.

Iraq had set a deadline for last week Friday for embassies to close.

Several of the embassies in

Kuwait City which have refused to comply with the closure order have been surrounded by Iraqi troops.

About 21,000 Westerners, including 3,000 Americans, are being held in Iraq and Kuwait.

On Sunday, Portuguese, Danish, Swedish, Turkish, Yugoslav and Pakistani nationals were also reported to have crossed the frontier through the Habur border post.

Diplomats in Lisbon said eight Portuguese citizens freed by the Iraqis arrived in Turkey after a 12-hour drive from Baghdad.

Two Danish and two Swedish nationals, wives of diplomats in Kuwait, also crossed the frontier.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Korea
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
17:30 Arabic series
17:40 Programme review
17:45 Local programme
17:50 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:10 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Girls
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 Martin Luther King

PRAYER TIMES
06:42 Fajr
06:57 (Sunrise) Duha
12:37 Dhur
16:14 'Asr
19:11 Maghreb
20:32 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifish Tel. 810740.

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440.
De la Sade Church, Tel. 661757
Terramata Church, Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church, Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church, Tel. 771531.
Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church, Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church, Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Tel. 815877, 649522.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./max. temp.
Amman 18 / 31
Aqaba 24 / 37
Deserts 19 / 36
Jordan Valley 22 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mahmoud Azzam 819925
Dr. Muhammad Abu Mahfouz 793344
Dr. Issam Hawandeh 624830
Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr 746426
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Naiwouk pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646645
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
IBRD:
Dr. Ma'n Barqawi (—)
Al Shams' pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Nishat'at Ammani (—)
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 626802
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 626802
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

COMPANY
636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Islamic Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifa Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Madina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848485
Al-Humaira Hospital 687227/9
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622405/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD:
Prince Basmal Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Moscow (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Doha (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:40 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:15 London (RJ)
11:30 Jeddah (RJ)
11:40 Riyadh (RJ)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Doha (RJ)
12:15 Vienna (RJ)
12:45 Rome (RJ)
13:45 Athens (RJ)
13:45 Paris (RJ)
14:45 Beirut (RJ)
14:45 Doha (RJ)
14:45 Jeddah (RJ)
14:45 Bahrain (RJ)
14:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 Moscow (RJ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apples 520 / 550
Apricots 600 / 300
Bananas 500 / 400
Bananas (Mekammar) 430 / 400
Beans 300 / 250
Broccoli 120 / 100
Cabbage 240 / 220
Carrots 260 / 220
Cauliflower 160 / 120
Corns 300 / 280
Cucumbers (large) 140 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 240
Eggplant 180 / 140
Figs 520 / 420
Garlic 850 / 750
Grapefruit 350 / 300
Grapes 500 / 450
Lemons 320 / 280
Mangoes 120 / 80
Mellor (large) 500 / 450
Mellor (small) 120 / 80
Onion (dry) 200 / 180
Onion (wet) 440 / 380
Oranges 300 / 280
Peaches 700 / 600
Pears 500 / 450
Pepper (hot) 180 / 120
Pepper (sweet) 160 / 120
Potatoes 400 / 350
Sage 500 / 400
Soybeans 220 / 180
Tomatoes 150 / 100
Watermelon 300 / 200

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:20 Beirut (RJ)
13:20 Moscow (SU)
13:25 Riyadh (SV)
17:55 Cairo (A2)
18:10 Doha (RJ)
18:10 Zurich (SA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 Jeddah (RJ)
11:40 Riyadh (RJ)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Doha (RJ)
12:15 Vienna (RJ)
12:45 Rome (RJ)
13:45 Athens (RJ)
13:45 Paris (RJ)
14:45 Beirut (RJ)
14:45 Doha (RJ)
14:45 Jeddah (RJ)
14:45 Bahrain (RJ)
14:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 Moscow (RJ)

تونس 28

Queen visits Health Ministry, JNRCS

AMMAN (J.T.) — Queen Noor Monday visited the Ministry of Health and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and reviewed their activities and enhanced efforts to respond to the medical and welfare needs of the people of Jordan in the face of the current challenges. The Queen was also briefed on plans to reorganize and expand nursing colleges in Jordan.

The Queen was briefed on the activities of both the ministry and JNRCS by Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben and JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura.

In view of the current pressure on both institutions as a result of the influx of Arab evacuees from Iraq, Queen Noor emphasized the importance of the role of the ministry and the JNRCS in coping with the exceptionally high demand for relief and assistance services.

The minister said that his ministry had established emergency and first aid centres at the Iraqi-Jordanian border point of Al-Ruweished and at Aqaba. The ministry has also established an emergency centre equipped with a communication network that links Amman with hospitals and clinics located between the borders in the east and Aqaba in the south, the minister said.

Dr. Al Zaben said that the ministry had also taken measures to ensure speedy transportation of emergency cases to hospitals, and to increase the number of staff and ambulances at Al Rishbeh Health Centre and at Al Ruweished Hospital.

The Ministry of Health has also assisted civil defence training courses being conducted throughout the Kingdom, by providing instructors (doctors and nurses) and medicine.

Her Majesty commended the ministry's effort and stressed the importance of maintaining an adequate level of preparedness by the health services to meet future challenges and address national need, during these stressful times.

Queen Noor informed the minister of the international contacts she has made to secure equipment, material and financial assistance to meet the present crisis and future needs.

The minister briefed the Queen on plans regarding nursing colleges in the kingdom. The two nursing colleges in Amman and Zarqa have already been merged into one college based in Yajouz (combining nursing and midwifery) while a second nursing and midwifery college is being established in Irb.

At the office of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society the society's president Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura said that JNRCS was working in close coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet the needs of tens of thousands of Arab evacuees flooding into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait. He also briefed the Queen on JNRCS's efforts to provide training and services which Jordanians might need in any possible future emergency.

The society has sent a medical team to Ruweished, accompanied by three nurses (two of whom are ICRC personnel), and seven people to help register evacuees, set up tents and provide and provide sanitation and environmental health services, Abu Qoura said.

He said two tents erected at Ruweished serve as a waiting room and an examination centre. The society also provided an ambulance for speedy evacuation of emergency cases to the nearest hospital, he said.

Another medical team was posted between Ruweished and the Iraqi border post at Trebil. A first aid post is being set up in Aqaba to offer relief and assistance to evacuees leaving Jordan via Aqaba, Abu Qoura said.

The ICRC has provided large tents of 110 square metres each, to be set up at Ruweished to provide protection for the evacuees from day time heat and cold at night.

The Queen acknowledged the important contribution of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and its role in assisting Jordanian citizens in the existing and coming period of severe economic hardship.

205,000 cross into Jordan from Iraq by Monday noon

RUWEISHED (Petra) — Since the start of the Gulf crisis and until noon Monday a total of 205,000 citizens of various nationalities crossed into Jordanian territory through the Ruweished border post, according to Brigadier Abdul Hamid Ersheid, director of the border and aliens section at the Public Security Department (PSD).

He said that after the re-opening of the border last Friday between 10,000 and 18,000 Arab and foreign nationals have been crossing into Jordan from Iraq after fleeing from Kuwait.

Most of those arriving through Ruweished, he said, are Egyptians who so far totalled 122,000.

Other nationalities included Sudanese, Tunisians, Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanians, Thais, Indians, Philippines, Sri Lankans, Italians, French, Russians, Americans, Chinese, Koreans, Yugoslavs, British, Polish, Bulgarians, Tanzanians and Spaniards.

Ersheid said that Jordanian authorities had embarked on setting up to two huge camps between the border posts of Ruweished in Jordan and Qadisiyah in Iraq to accommodate thousands of arrivals. "The two camps will be supplied with water, food and electricity," Ersheid said.

Ruweished District Governor Aktham Al Majali said that five ambulances were stationed on a permanent basis at the border post and two mobile military hospitals with 15 beds were ready to offer urgent medical treatment. The Ministry of Supply has been supplying free meals to the expatriates, he said.

Ruweished Hospital Director Hilmi Bisharat said that several medical units had been put on alert, and medicines had been made available to deal with common and contagious diseases. He said that doctors and nurses had been on full alert.

Jordanians send humanitarian aid to 'the children of Iraq'

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first shipment of foodstuffs and medicine as humanitarian aid to the children of Iraq left Monday, nearly one week after the appeal to aid Iraq's children began. The shipment of 10 trucks was seen off by about three hundred men, women and children as directors of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) supervised the campaign they initiated nearly a week ago.

"From the children of Jordan to the children in Iraq," read dozens of banners carried by children and grown up alike as they oversaw the departure of ten trucks carrying foodstuffs and medical supplies on the airport highway just off the 7th circle.

Children posed for cameras and said that they came "because America wants to bomb Iraq and make their children die." While children and mothers posed with pro-Iraqi banners GUVS officials gave television interviews, explaining over and over again to dozens of foreign reporters that the appeal was not a "publicity stunt" but an appeal for humanitarian aid.

Westerners had to be reminded that "if Iraqi children go hungry so will the foreign children in Iraq."

"It's sad that these foreigners don't seem to understand that they are about to starve a people and that this is wrong whatever the reason," said one woman participating at Monday's event. Children from the S.O.S. children's village were bused in for the occasion.

Almost 250,000 Jordanian dinars in donations have been collected since the appeal entitled "Milk & Medicine for the Children of Iraq" began a week ago, according to the union's President Dr. Abdullah Khatib.

The purpose of the appeal is intended to bolster humanitarian support for Iraq's 17 million people in general and its 5 million children in particular, said one of the appeals organisers. "The economic blockade, which has been condoned by the world community, threatens to starve the Iraqi people for political reasons," said the organisers.

Western reporters badgered Abdullah Khatib about the implications of breaking the blockade by the shipment which was carrying milk, eggs, chicken, dairy products and medicine. "Our aim is not to break the blockade, we are a welfare society and to our knowledge food is not part of the boycott and should not be," Khatib told reporters.

He reminded some of the Western reporters that the American Mononite Church had sent humanitarian relief aid to the Vietnamese while American warplanes were bombing Vietnam in the early 1970s. "That was humanitarian aid," said Khatib, "and this" he said pointing at the loaded trucks, "is also humanitarian aid."

Khatib said that most of the donations which had been made thus far came from "lower and middle class Jordanians and some groups outside Jordan." The wealthy Jordanians had not made their share of the contributions yet, Khatib said. "Except for half a dozen wealthy Jordanians the rest have not yet contributed," he said.

Khatib said that he was grateful to the Jordanian pharmaceutical industries who had all contributed to the appeal and the World Council of Churches who have so far contributed \$30,000.

Khatib told the Jordan Times earlier in the day that several foreign, mostly European shipping agents and companies had refused to deliver foodstuffs, including milk, which were destined for Jordan. "There is a ship with milk destined for Jordan docked in Singapore which should be in Aqaba, but the ship's owner does not want it to go to Aqaba," Khatib said.

Since Jordan is dependent on importation of most of its foodstuffs, Khatib and other GUVS officials expressed worries that Jordan may be in need of humanitarian help in the near future if foreign companies intended to apply the "de facto" embargo on Jordan.

Ministry of Health prepares plan for evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben said Monday that the ministry had prepared an emergency plan to meet the needs of the evacuees coming from the Arab Gulf region.

Zaben said an emergency room was prepared at the ministry to facilitate communications between the ministry and the health centres and private and public hospitals in the Kingdom.

Some of the medical centres are now considered evacuation centres, Zaben said. He said that these centres were equipped with all the medical needs, including medical cadres and ambulances.

The minister pointed out that every hospital has an integrated plan which provides for the medical cadres and has full coordination and communications with the ministry. These hospitals, he said were provided with fuel to generate electricity for a period of minimum two weeks in emergency cases. Medicines are available in sufficient amounts, according to Zaben.

Zaben said he had inspected all areas with evacuees.

He said centres where the Arab evacuees gather were equipped with medical cadres, medicines and necessary medical requirements.

The minister called the Jordanian citizens to cooperate with the medical centres and the Civil Defence Department (CDD) in assisting evacuees and pointed out that there were many citizens who volunteered to help the centres and the CDD.

Aqaba Health Department Director Al Rahman Al Shobaki said that at hospitals suffer most from sunstroke and exhaustion.

Shobaki told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Aqaba Health Department had taken all the necessary measures to serve the large number of Egyptian nationals during their stay at the port city of Aqaba before they are transported by ships to the Egyptian port of Yanbu. For this purpose, Shobaki said, three fully-equipped emergency centres were opened recently at the gathering sites of the Egyptian evacuees.

"The medical services offered to the evacuees are of the best that can be offered," he said. "The department examines samples of water from these areas four times a day to check if it is fit for drinking, he added."

He said that 100 to 150 patients visit the centres every day. "Since the beginning of the crisis 168 cases were referred to Hays Al Hussein Hospital," he said.

UNRWA staff aid evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said Monday that it had placed some of its staff, assisted by scouts from the agency's schools, at the Amman International Fair at Marj Al Hamam to provide assistance to expatriates fleeing Kuwait and Iraq.

At least 11,000 people of different nationalities are being put up at the centre west of here, and UNRWA has set up 42 tents on the centre's grounds to give shelter to Yemenis, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis. The majority are Yemenis who count about 600, according to an UNRWA official.

He told the Jordan Times that doctors and medical assistants were offering free medicine and medical treatment around the clock and water was being supplied by the agency on a permanent basis until the crisis is over.

"A group of 25 scouts from UNRWA's schools together with a selected number of teachers are helping the staff to offer assistance and to distribute 500 free meals supplied by the agency daily on a daily basis," the official added.

He said that UNRWA's Amman Training Centre was currently hosting some 600 nationals from the Philippines who have fled Iraq and Kuwait.

Meanwhile the Professional Association Complex in Amman announced Monday that it was accommodating 1,600 Yemenis on its grounds and caring for another 400 Yemenis put up in mosques around the complex, offering them three meals a day.

A statement said that the complex had opened a clinic and referred 100 cases to local hospitals. The complex's information spokesman Jamil Al Nimri appealed to Jordanian citizens to provide cash and in-kind contributions to assist the evacuees.

Nimri said that the Manonite Charitable Society had contributed \$5,000 worth of powdered milk and children's food to be distributed through the Professional Association Complex.

In Karak it was announced that the Arab Potash Company (APC) workers had decided to contribute a day's pay to buy food for Iraq's children. It said that a group of housewives living in the company's housing complex had decided to raise further contributions for Iraq.

Qasem conveys message to Bahraini leader

MANAMA (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Monday conveyed a verbal message to Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa from His Majesty King Hussein about the situation in the Gulf and means of containing the Gulf crisis.

The emir and Qasem exchanged views about the situation. Qasem explained Jordan's position and underlined the need for an Arab solution and Jordan's rejection of any military solution, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

It said that the Bahraini emir asked Qasem to convey greetings to the King.

Municipality readies for war, emergency cases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Greater Amman Municipality Monday announced measures which, it said, would be taken as part of the national efforts to provide services to the public in times of wars, emergencies and natural disasters.

A statement following a meeting chaired by Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat said that a central emergency office would be set up in downtown to serve as an operations room to direct teams for urgent services in various parts of the Greater Amman area.

All municipality departments, with their staff of technicians and workers and the equipment have been placed on round the clock alert to deal with any eventuality, said the statement.

"All public shelters and even caves available within the Amman area will be cleaned and sprayed with insecticides and provided with essential services to be ready to give shelter to members of the public," the statement said.

It said that apart from offering essential services, municipality staff have been trained on rescue and fire fighting operations.

Meanwhile training of civilians in matters related to civil defence and rescue operations were reported continuing in various parts of the country.

In Zarqa a total of 150 women in three districts have acquired training in civil defence and first aid operations and 300 others have been registered for new courses which are being held at the rate of six a week. The courses are supervised by civil defence authorities.

According to Lt. Colonel Abdul Rahman Al Nasser from the Civil Defence Department (CDD) in Zarqa, his men have already offered training to 560 citizens in the Zarqa region and 1,039 others are currently receiving training.

Indian minisers to seek increased evacuation flights

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Indian government should immediately increase the number of emergency evacuation flights for Indians leaving Kuwait to cope with an expected surge in the number of people arriving here, two Indian state ministers said Monday.

"We have personally inspected every phase of the evacuation process as well as the difficulties encountered," said T.K. Hamzah, minister of public works of the southern state of Kerala. "We believe that there are two major areas where the Indian Embassy here should be strengthened; one is the documentation involved in processing the evacuees' homeward flights and the other is the number of flights."

Nararath Amin, home minister of Gujarat, agreed with Hamzah and added that "in light of the projected rise in the number of Indians arriving here in the next few days, immediate steps should be undertaken to speed up the process in all its spheres."

Hamzah and Amin visited the Jordanian side of the border with Iraq at Al Ruweished, 360 kilometres northeast of Amman Sunday for firsthand information on the state of affairs at the frontier post, which has so far witnessed a flow of over 205,000 people of different nationalities, including about 9,000 Indians.

Both ministers had words of praise for the Jordanian authorities. "We realise that it is an enormous task that is facing, and we very much appreciate the facilities it is extending," not only to Indian nationals but also to the thousands of others who are arriving every day," Hamzah said.

"With increasing flights and speed up documentation of Indian evacuees, there will be no problems here," said Hamzah, who, along with Amin, paid visits to the various shelters Indians are being accommodated pending their flight home on a first-come-first-served basis.

Amin said that there was a visible rise in the number of Indian families arriving here across the border after a "traumatic trip across the Kuwaiti-Iraqi desert in the few days." "Until now, the 'was more or less of men, we noted from embassy rds," Amin said.

"But now are more families coming I believe that there should be a minimum of backlogs to reduce the difficulties and children face the evacuation process."

Amin said he was in contact with his minister, Chiman B. Patel, the phone and had informed of the "realities of situation here and recommend action."

The statements have already aided for emergency measures Bombay to deal with the cases and to facilitate their home from Bombay.

Both Zah and Amin agreed the Indian Embassy here doing its best to render visible services to the evacuees. "Considering the local infrastructure and available facilities, the embassy is doing a very good job," the minister of Kerala said. "We (Amin and Hamzah) visited Saudi Arabia before arriving here and saw the evacuation arrangements there, but then the number of people in Saudi Arabia was less than 1,500. In the case of Jordan it is going to be tens of thousands, as I was told."

The two ministers also met with a high-powered five-member Jordanian committee which is entrusted with tackling all aspects of the evacuation process, starting with formalities at the Al Ruweished desert post, where the temperature could go as high as 45 to 47 degrees centigrade high in summer, transportation of evacuees into Amman or to the port of Aqaba (for Egyptians and North Africans to take a ferry across the Red Sea to Nuweibeh in Egypt), sanitation, health, food, camping.

"I have a very good picture of the situation here and this I will be relating to my government and my people back in Kerala," Hamzah said. "There is a great deal of anxiety at home over the developments in the Gulf, and I hope to give my people some relief that their relatives and others are being taken care of in the process of leaving Kuwait and Iraq."

Expatriate children face no problems enrolling in schools

By Ali Masarwah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian schools enrolled more than ten thousand children of Jordanian expatriates who left Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf crisis which erupted following Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2.

According to sources at the Ministry of Education, all newcomers had succeeded in enrolling in Jordanian schools with no serious problems arising from this unexpected influx of students.

"We knew that the situation in Kuwait could influence the educational sector in Jordan, so we have been setting up plans to accommodate expatriates' children in our schools since the crisis began," Director of education and educational supervision Khaled Al-Sheikh told the Jordan Times.

Among the measures taken by the Ministry of Education to cope with the situation are an increase in the number of teachers and facilitating additional classrooms. If necessary, afternoon classes will also be introduced during the 1990-1991 scholastic year, according to ministerial sources.

Jordanian students coming to the country from Kuwait and other Gulf states are being given a four weeks' respite to provide their new schools with the necessary certificates and documents to complete registration at Jordanian schools.

For students unable to come up with the necessary certificates, a placement test will be arranged by the end of September.

Asked about possible difficulties which could face the expatriates' children in Jordanian schools due to the different educational systems in Kuwait and Jordan, Al-Sheikh said that students could adapt to the Jordanian system easily because courses in Kuwait and Jordanian schools were similar.

"We have had many students coming from the Gulf every year, and they did not have any difficulties in adapting to our scholastic system whatsoever. The educational systems in all Arab states are much the same, due to the unified educational standards set by the Arab League," Al-Sheikh said.

Canada pledges \$2.5m to assist evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canada announced that it would provide up to \$2.5 million in emergency assistance to help alleviate the plight of refugees fleeing into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

A statement from the Canadian Embassy in Amman said that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made the announcement in Ottawa Sunday and that he wrote to His Majesty King Hussein to inform him about Canada's decision and its understanding of the particularly difficult situation in which Jordan finds itself at present.

In his letter Mulroney stated that Canada was ready to ease the burden of Jordan and to assist the innocent civilians who had been caught up in the current crisis.

It quoted the Canadian premier as saying that the contribution would be used to respond to humanitarian appeals from international agencies such as the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The announcement followed the arrival Sunday night at the Queen Alia International Airport of two planes loaded with medical equipment and relief supplies offered by a society of physicians in the Netherlands, Belgium and France as well as the Geneva-based ICRC.

APPEAL

MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan.

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres:
The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.

GUVS - Amman Governorate	Tel. 639555
GUVS - Irbid Governorate	(02)242518
GUVS - Zarqa Governorate	(05)981712
GUVS - Balqa Governorate	(05)555285
GUVS - Karak Governorate	(03)351169
GUVS - Ma'an Governorate	(03)324777
Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society-Aqaba	(03) 316130
GUVS - Tafila Governorate	(03)342365
GUVS - Mafraq Governorate	(04)432040

Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

• Open and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Clipperton Road (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

FILM

• German entitled "Kamkazi" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Heart-broken U.S. may want to remember

WASHINGTON is all of a sudden heart-broken over the non-implementation of U.N. resolutions. Has the U.S. record on the respect and implementation of U.N. resolutions including 242 and 338 been more honourable, one would easily sympathise with its vociferous and militaristic reaction to Iraq's refusal to heed the recent string of Security Council resolutions. Sympathy for Iraq is understandable in view of the fact that such recent resolutions were orchestrated, produced and directed by the White House. In this vein it is most unfortunate that the Soviet glasnost and perestroika policy has meant giving the Americans more leeway to do what they want with the smaller countries of the world. Hitherto, the rivalry between Moscow and Washington was often translated into the application of the system of checks and balances in the international arena. Now Washington has no counter power on earth to check its use of raw power to achieve its selfish national interests, and the law of the jungle where the strong will dominate the weak will surely prevail. Likeminded Arab countries must therefore unite and coordinate their policies more than ever in the face of the mounting pressure on them to undermine their right to determine their future freely. If the U.S. is allowed to get a way with its present imperialist policy, the Arabs will have very little chance to reassert themselves in the international arena. King Hussein is at his finest hour in his attempts to protect Arab national honour and interests and his behind-the-scenes goodwill efforts to salvage the situation will go down in history as a most memorable act that all future generation will revere with pride and lasting hope.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTRIES

AGAINST all odds and the wishes of war mongers, King Hussein has embarked on a tour of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya in a bid to save the Middle East and the world from a real disaster, said Al Rai daily Monday. The trace between the hawks and the doves is on; and the peace loving people are doing all that in their power to defuse the tension and pave the way for peace, the paper said. Should a war break out, it said, it can by no means be confined to the Gulf region but would rather result in a catastrophe for all parties. It is in the interest of the Arab nation to try to halt the calamity; and the talks between King Hussein and the leaders of the Maghreb Union are designed to achieve that goal, said the paper. Since the emergence of the crisis in the Gulf, King Hussein has not left a stone unturned in his ongoing efforts for peace, despite the numerous odds facing him and his Kingdom and amidst the beating of the drums of war. The King is now making a last ditch attempt which we all hope will be crowned with success, the paper hoped. It said since the Gulf crisis is an Arab problem, it should no doubt be solved by the Arabs themselves; and it is time for all Arabs to realise this fact and act to avert war.

In view of the conspiracies hatched by certain Arab heads of state against the Arab nation and in view of the ongoing U.S.-British-Zionist onslaught on the Arabs and Muslims there can be no alternative for the Arab and Muslim masses but join efforts and rid their countries of the agents of imperialist powers, says Abdul Rahim Omar. It is time for the Arab masses to rise against those despots who serve imperialist interests, who have their hands on Arab and Islamic wealth and who direct their masses against other Arabs and Muslims, the writer calls. The Gulf crisis presents the Arabs with the question of to be or not to be, and makes it incumbent upon all Arab masses to rally for the support of Iraq in its confrontation with the colonial forces and their agents in the Arab World, the writer continues. It is time for the Arab masses to rid themselves of the bonds of slavery and tutelage, and to take possession of their oil wealth which has been denied them by their Arab rulers for long, Omar adds. He criticises the Soviet Union and China for allowing themselves to be carried away with the Americans and for siding by acts of injustice. For the first time in Soviet history since the October revolution Moscow allows the Americans and their allies to launch aggression on a country bound to the Soviet Union by a friendship treaty, says the writer. He notes that as certain Arab leaders together with the Soviet Union and China have now succumbed to Washington's imperialist will, the Arab masses can no longer allow themselves to remain silent living under the oppressive rule of imperialist stooges.

Al Dastour daily expressed belief that the countries of the Maghreb Union can and should play a leading role in the ongoing attempts to end the Gulf crisis peacefully. The paper said despite the fact that these countries are thousands of miles away from the Gulf, they realise that the Arab world as a whole is targeted by the current crusade and by the American-led armada massing in that area. For this reason, the paper added, Arab masses now look to the Maghreb Union countries to help back King Hussein's efforts to avert war and bring about peace to the whole region.

The View from Fourth Circle

A fearsome fleet's last gasp

By Rami G. Khouri

NOW into the fourth week of the Gulf crisis precipitated by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. I would suggest that Kuwait itself has become something of a sideshow, and the real nature of the conflict has started to become more clear. This is not a conflict over the territory or oil wealth of Kuwait, or the security of Saudi Arabia, or the political morality of the Iraqi leadership. It is, ultimately, a conflict about the nature of political identity among the 200 million people of the Arab World.

It is perhaps the final battle in a conflict that has festered in this region for about 500 years, from the day in the mid-16th century when the Ottoman Turks occupied our region and initiated the modern phase of European and Western colonial control of Arab people and resources — a two-way dynamic which has its antecedents in ancient history, with the Greco-Roman occupation of our countries, and the Islamic conquest of parts of Europe.

Throughout this century, Arab political identity and geographical sovereignty have reflected the post-World War I imperial legacy of England, France, Italy, Turkey and other European powers. This was the great Arab catastrophe of the first half of the century. It was followed soon after by the catastrophe of the second half of the century, the creation of Israel, the disenfranchisement of the Palestinians, and the inability of the Arabs to come to terms with the American/Israeli combine.

The cumulative Arab catastrophes and failures of this century were compounded by top-heavy, often autocratic domestic political systems that provided few opportunities for self-expression or participation by the average person, and, more recently, a track record

of economic mismanagement, incompetence and corruption that has seen the Arabs close out the decade of the 1980s with a collective foreign debt that increased from around \$25 billion in 1980 to around \$180 billion in 1989 — while our real standard of living declines, confidence plummets, capital flight increases, and our dependence on foreign imports continues to increase, especially for food. So much for the joys of nationhood.

In sum, the Arab experience of the 20th century has not been easy or normal, and has generated neither pride nor confidence. Faced by the collective failure of our public identity, we turned inward to ourselves and our families, seeking first to assure the primary needs of income, food, shelter and education, and then finding comfort, greater meaning and a wider identity in our religion, our tribe, our rich history, and when it got very bad, in our memories, and our dreams.

Our Arab political environment was a failure, often even an embarrassment, from the day that we emerged as states from the loins of our imperial guardians in Istanbul, Paris and London, and were then passed on to our teenage foster parents in Washington. We have lived as lame countries because we were born crippled of selfish and unnatural parents who would not let us mature and live as independent adults. They loved us so much as children that they wanted us forever to remain six years old.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the two most significant political movements in the Arab World in the past decade have been the turn to fundamentalist Islam and the demand for democratic pluralism. Together, these have dominated the political scene, and probably account for well

over 75 per cent of the political spectrum in countries where political sentiments can be expressed freely. Both these movements indicate a powerful grassroots demand for change. Arab countries which have appreciated the depth and breadth of this grassroots pressure will have the best chance of making the transition to more rational, responsive and sustainable political systems, and therefore of assuring themselves the stability and security which every society seeks.

Enter the Gulf crisis. The crisis has come as a dramatic manifestation of the stark choice that faces most Arab states — do we find identity, normalcy and redemption in our own nationalism and in our will to live as free and sovereign people who rid themselves of the manipulative falsehoods and imperial interests of the Western powers who have played with us for the entire 20th century? Or, as some Arab states seem to be saying, do we throw in our lot with Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet — America, Britain and the industrialised states of the West — all the time making polite and perfunctory gestures of respect to Mecca and Jerusalem, while really praying to the false gods of Disneyland, General Motors and the manufacturers of guns?

Kuwait and Iraq are only passing catalysts. The deeper underlying dynamic that has been unleashed by this crisis is about whether the post-colonial order which the imperial powers left us in the early days of this century has any chance to continue. Many Arabs — most Arabs, I believe — are saying that we live in artificial and unnatural countries, with inordinate disparities of resource wealth and population which primarily reflect the

once and future interests of the West's fading imperialism. We are saying that this confrontation in the Gulf should be recognised for what it is: the last gasp of colonialism and imperialism, and a pivotal juncture in the long and checkered history of pan-Arab identity and national aspirations.

It is very interesting that in Arab countries where there is the most freedom of expression — Jordan, Algeria, Yemen, Tunisia and, ironically, occupied Palestine — support for Iraq is greatest. And support for Western Arab forces against Iraq comes from those Arab states where freedom of expression is virtually non-existent, with the perplexing exception of Egypt. (But Egypt, as we have seen, has been lost for a decade somewhere between Barbara Walters' eyelashes and the skyline of Jerusalem; until they snap out of their confusion and decide if they are part of the Arab World or part of the Colonel Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken Farm and Empire, Egypt will continue to be confused and to confuse).

It should mean something to the Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet that where there is freedom of expression in the Arab World there is also powerful anti-Americanism and strong support for Iraq. I would assume that were there freedom of expression in the other Arab states, we would see something similar to what we are seeing in Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Yemen and Tunisia. But, of course, this is uncomfortable for American officials to deal with, so they tend to ignore it, and the Western media, with a few exceptions, goes along with the process of continuing to ignore the lessons of 20th century history. The Americans, Maggie and

Fearsome Fleet respond with a litany of contradictions and double standards, which accentuates the Arab feeling that we are dealing with an imperial mentality that is as dangerous as it is simplistic. We are told about the political crimes of the Iraqi leaders, but we are conveniently asked to forget that the West sold this same Iraqi leaders' weapons and food and industrial products for many years, or that the West supported such human rights paragons as Ferdinand Marcos, the Shah of Iran, Nicolae Ceausescu, the Duvaliers, the South Africans and many others. The political morality of the Iraqi leadership should be discussed within the more complete context of the Third World and the West's support for averted Third World leadership.

There are no gas masks which the Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet can put on to protect themselves from the effects of the pan-Arab sentiments which have been released into the air. This is a force which has been bottled up for most of this century, and which will assert itself one day within a context of freedom, indigenous identity, and democratic pluralism. The events of the past decade should make this clear to anyone who takes the time to look at what has been happening in the Arab World. It may be delayed for a few more years or decades, but in the end the Arab will be free and to live in dignity shall triumph — precisely as a similar will triumph in Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Southern Africa, South Korea, the former Soviet Empire, and other parts of the world.

We are probably on the verge of the most significant political restructuring in the Arab World since the borders of all our sunny little ahlan-wasahlan countries were drawn up earlier this century. Nobody can predict how and when the changes will take place, but it is certain that the pan-Arab emotions, sentiments and forces which have been activated will start to change the politics and nationalism of the region in a manner based primarily on the desire to pool pan-Arab human, mineral, economic and territorial resources in the service of the Arab people, and on the basis of friendly relations with the rest of the world reflecting mutual respect.

There are no gas masks which the Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet can put on to protect themselves from the effects of the pan-Arab sentiments which have been released into the air. This is a force which has been bottled up for most of this century, and which will assert itself one day within a context of freedom, indigenous identity, and democratic pluralism. The events of the past decade should make this clear to anyone who takes the time to look at what has been happening in the Arab World. It may be delayed for a few more years or decades, but in the end the Arab will be free and to live in dignity shall triumph — precisely as a similar will triumph in Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Southern Africa, South Korea, the former Soviet Empire, and other parts of the world.

In this context, the Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet look sadly anachronistic, and daily out of sync with history. But, perhaps, such is the inevitable cost of a fading imperial order. Last gasps don't come easy.

America in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis

By Dr. Mohammad Farghal and Dr. Marwan Obaidat

Dr. Farghal is professor of linguistics at Yarmouk University and Dr. Obaidat is professor of English literature at the same university.

THE observer of the current Gulf crisis may wonder about its historical background. He may also wonder about the real motives of the American-instigated intervention in this inter-Arab conflict. This is an attempt to furnish a brief history of the Western and/or American-Arab relations along with an economic and a political analysis of the continuing ominous situation in the Gulf.

Since the Crusades (1095-1291) — the most climactic confrontation in the Middle Ages between the Muslim Near East and the Christian West — the Arab World has always constituted an alien but confrontational entity. And we learn from current conflicts in the region (in Lebanon, the Gulf, and the West Bank) that wars based on beliefs, religious and otherwise, are particularly capable of engendering prolonged antipathy; antipathy generates hostility and hostility suspicion of the most profound nature. Western attitudes of considerable antiquity have not yet changed; the series of Arab-Israeli and other related conflicts have as well given the West a renewed sense of anxiety and concern, or at best, interest in the region. But rather than providing opportunities for a better understanding of the Muslim World, contemporary East-West relations have followed certain religious, cultural, historical, and, more recently, political ideas that have generated further misunderstanding of this diverse and complex group of nations and peoples, and simultaneously to a coetaneous reluctance to change the situation.

The American concern with the region has thus always been set within a complicated array of cultural attitudes, and ideas. In 1764, America's foremost writer, the statesman Benjamin Franklin, wrote a narrative of the Barbary massacres which showed concern

with the problems created for Americans by North African Muslim Arabs. But American contact with the Muslim World was meager then, and military expeditions against North African states (1785-1815) yielded America's first substantive confrontation with the region, and the so-called Barbary war-affair sums up what America actually knew of the Muslim Near East until the very recent past: the Arab-Israeli war, the Lebanon civil crisis, the rise of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. It is, then, within this confusing context that the Muslim World and America confront each other. That there should be misunderstanding and suspicion on both sides is hardly surprising, as reflected is the general situation.

In short, Americans first met the Muslim Arabs through the Barbary wars waged to put an end to the capture of American sailors by the Arab pirates from the coastal areas of North Africa. This Barbary-oriented conflict introduced Americans to our part of the world, and, as might be expected, it offered an unflattering view of the Muslims — Arabs and otherwise — and the unsympathetic image of the entire region was highly exaggerated. Even worse, the Barbary affair involved great hostility, and America found itself immersed in an agonising overseas conflict as never before. General William Eaton, later the U.S. Consul in Tunis, stormed the Tripolitanian city of Derna in 1805 in the hope of removing the threat of the pirates by setting up a puppet government in Tripoli favourable to the United States. The American navy had, however, been waging a desultory war with the Tripolitanian corsairs since 1801, and General Eaton persuaded President Jefferson in 1803 that Eaton should lead an overland expedition against Tripoli. Eaton's concern was to place Hamed Karamanli on the throne of Tripoli from which he had been removed by a usurping brother. Eaton then organised an army in Egypt,

marched across the desert and captured Derna. His military expedition into North Africa furnished the U.S. Marine Corps with the phrase "to the shores of Tripoli" in their official song. The fall of Derna infected American relations with the Muslim Near East at large with a distrust and suspicion that have proved irremovable.

Presently, in the name of protecting international laws, America has unwittingly hastened to despatch its fleets to the Gulf and seek a free passage and an abode for its ground forces with the help of puppet regimes in the region subservient to her demands. A close perusal of recent history, however, proves the American government to be neither heedful to international laws nor to the protection of their allies, other things being equal.

History tells us that the United States has repeatedly violated international laws by transgressing the sovereignty of other nations in order to either set up puppet regimes or frustrate unwanted national aspirations in the relevant countries. Grenada, Panama, and presently Liberia are a few cases from a multitude, and the United States has sadistically watched her allies either collapse or disintegrate-Pakistan and Iran are two obvious exemplars among many.

The question that now arises as to what the real motive is behind the unprecedented mobilisation of American and American-satellite forces against Iraq, is it the transgression on Kuwait's sovereignty? Or is it the salvaging of other remaining Gulf states?

As could be expected, the answer to the above two questions is unfortunately in the negative. The American politicians more than any anybody else are aware that the legitimacy of Kuwait as a sovereign state is recent but it has been controversial since the termination of the British mandate until this very crisis; and the American decision-makers know in the back of their heads that Kuwait was once, at least historically, and should be an integral part of Iraq soil. This being the factual case, the American actions run

counter to putant historical facts. On the other hand, one can find a single intrinsic motive that could justify the prompt American move to protect the puppet regimes in the Gulf, because these regimes violate every single maxim of American democracy and political institution. The answer to the foregoing question should be crystal-clear to every patriotic and honest Arab: the American government tries hard to continue pirating the Arab wealth. In the meantime, a high percentage of the Arabs are still living in abject poverty. In fact, this crisis has proved that the U.S. has a dogged-determination to keep pirating Arab assets, whether it be quietly as it was several weeks ago, or violently as it is happening right now.

While the international economic and political blockade get the American government? The answer is certainly in the negative, at least in the long-run, because the Arab as well as the Muslim World now represented by Iraq and its patriotic leadership with all the Arab masses determinedly marching behind, have just duly started to fidget, and this awakening will inevitably turn the Gulf into an unpleasant experience for the American invaders and their chessmen if not into an everlasting inferno.

The truth of the matter is that Iraq has neither occupied nor invaded Kuwait; Iraq has only reunited with Kuwait after long years of separation, and the brethren in Kuwait find in Iraq a uniting and protecting force rather than an occupying power. But the steps were slippery and America made the descent. Be this as it may, at any rate, what was the U.S. response — military and otherwise — to the Israeli invasion of the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, and currently South Lebanon? What was the American response to the continuing Israeli refusal to implement U.N. Resolution 242? What was the American response to the recent Black Sunday massacre in Palestine? What was the American response to the Israeli air strike of Tunis in 1987? Nothing. Not a thing!

Open Letter to Mr. Bush

Difficult questions for someone on vacation

Dear "Peace proctor"!

WE know you do like being asked and disturbed these days as you are on vacation on behalf of the Arab public we want to remind you as a friend and boss or Bush that you had better postpone enjoying and playing golf till your soldiers who are now "enjoying" desert heat come back "safe" after a settlement is achieved in the area.

You can't imagine how all Arab patriots appreciate your being very much concerned about stability or "oil," if you like, in our region!

You can't also imagine how Muslims highly estimate and respect your being so keenly responsive and intervene to protect the two holy shrines (Arabia)!!

You can't believe, how the Arab public, especially in the countries whose leaders consider you their dearest "master," sorry, I mean "friend," shyly considers of how kind it is of you to give our national security priority even during your vacation!!

Yes, Sir, you were bit nervous and uncalm as you appeared on TV a few days ago answering questions about the Gulf crisis. While we strongly condemn this action which spoils your vacation, we at the same time still appeal to you to tolerate them, for they don't know that your game while vacation might be more important than your "game" in the Middle East. We are sure, Sir, they do not think that, to you and all Western leaders, the destiny of the miller and in the Third World countries is not as important as eg.

Sir, as one has even on vacation, we'll be very grateful if you just give us chance to remind you that:

— Selfish covetness can never be concealed in spite of the tremendously beautiful colours given to it.

— Saddam Hussin is not the only tiger in the area; all Arabs are tigers who will fight soldiers and all those who try to deprive them of their prey.

— We now your patriots to be cats not tigers, like your agents in the area you should remember that even cats change into lions when freed.

— Why patriots seen as violence in this area?

— We would like to die with dignity for the sake and welfare of our homeland; you love to live for luxury's sake.

— The Arab will never be silenced but will continue to be a perennial challenge to imperialism and selfish policies.

— People's willways the victor at the end and the anger of liberty-seekers renders is much stronger than your B2s and F-115s.

Now, we'll be appreciative if you kindly try your hand at answering the following questions during the period of relaxation:

— Don't you think it's too late to try and pretend that you are concerned about security and stability in our region?

— Would it be right if I pass every Arab's opinion of who is warmly embracing looking after and strongly backing the only threat to oil's security, your beloved Israel?

— When do you intend to stop your rough wind that insists to cross the seas to disturb our national security which, without your, worsened variety of interventions, we can maintain.

Finally, anticipating your usual cooperation in contributing by force to absentee conscience of the international family concerning all Arab issues, we remain,

Sincerely,

A Thorn in Our Enemy's Throat
Majed Al-Korayn
Amman

Handwritten signature: جاسم

The Yankees are coming... The Yankees are coming?

THE UNITED STATES of America has finally exposed its only interest in the region, oil. By America, I only refer to the policy decision-makers in Washington D.C. and not to the American people at large (and definitely not to the Arab-American community that come and go here; they come ignorant about the Arabs, and go with some feeling and understanding of what our peoples are, of what we aspire to).

For the past three decades, consecutive U.S. administrations have totally ignored the political aspirations of the Arab masses. No need to go into the details of why this has always been the case. Any Arab child in Jordan or any kid in the Arab World will

tell you about the strong Zionist stranglehold on American governments and Congress, on the U.S. political system, and on the news media.

So, every man in the streets of Arabia will tell you that America's total support for Israel is a foregone conclusion, a fait accompli, a political reality we have learned to take for granted. Because we suffer its consequences daily. He will also tell you that we all know (as we have grown to) that the rights of the Palestinian people, if any came second, to animal rights in mainstream America. Supporting the rights of non-Middle-Eastern Jews to come, transplant, and live in the land of Palestine, and ignoring

the rights of millions of Palestinian Arabs (Christians and Muslims alike) in the process for all these years, has definitely rendered all American governments as public enemy number one to the Arab World. These are daily facts. These pains are daily bread to us, Arab masses... So many generations of us have learned to take these "facts" in stride, in silent pain, and with patience...

This time the American decision-makers have placed themselves so quickly and unequivocally in the middle of the Arab quagmire, still dealing with the wrong people (or should I say, with the wrong handful of Gulf families?). This, the U.S. administration committed its poli-

tical will to plunge head-first and with lightning speed into an empty swimming pool... More mistakes?? The injury to us masses was your ignoring (along with this Israeli) the historical rights of the poor Palestinians, followed by bullying you for more than 30 years for reminding you of those rights, and to top it up now there comes the insult of your speedy alliance with a few Arab oil sheikhs in the area. Is this the fatal attraction, or a typical error of judgment on your part?

The Bush administration has just declared war against the man in the street in all of Arabia... You should have asked us first; we the ordinary Arabs, the people in the street, the silent major-

ity... "You should have taken our pulse and temperature, you should have conducted your polls of our opinion in Amman, in the West Bank, in Algeria, in Beirut, everywhere, anywhere in the Arab World (you name it)... And you would have known what we really feel about all this crisis. Let me repeat, go ask the man in the street in any Arab city, and not an Arab sheikh over his mobile phone... What are you getting yourselves into?? Most ordinary Americans do not know much about our history of seven-thousand years as a nation... How dare we expect their government to respect our hopes and our attempts to regain our dignity? If it has not yet worked out the implementation of U.N. Re-

solution 242, how dare we question the speed of implementing Resolution 660, just fresh out of the Security Council oven? Who are we to object to America coming to rescue and protect a few Arab regimes that were originally drawn and installed by the British lions of a waning empire? Yes, those same colonialists that the heroes of the great American revolution have fought and gotten rid of, so bravely, more than two hundred years ago!

This superpower, America, should think twice now. Do you really want to further antagonise the Arab masses? Do you really want to take the wrong side, again, this time? Do you really believe your interest lies with a princely family of only 6000? Or is it with the 160 million ordinary (and mostly starving) Arabs? If the

former continues to be your choice, then brace yourself to live to regret it... because that is tantamount to Vietnamising us... We will have to resist your army of occupation... Scorched earth, blocking oil-pipes en masse, any style really.

Maybe the present U.S. administration needs to pay more attention to such domestic problems as the "Savings & Loans" debacle, drugs and the ensuing corruption, the homeless, education, abortion, etc... Or is the Gulf crisis now the perfect scapegoat?

Your army has brought along its usual ration of body-bags, which we sincerely hope will not be needed but left to rot in the storerooms. But please remember we have ours ready too; the blistering sands of Arabia... We are almost certain that this time

the American policy- and decision-makers have finally taken a boomerang shot at the Arab masses... Definitely, with very little consideration to our feelings and hopes (same as always, what's new?). Maybe I should be grateful to you, Mr. Bush, for that pre-emptive shot. This is just the spark needed to (finally) awaken the dormant Arab nationalism and to mobilise us, the Arab masses, against the last of the crusaders... You see; you have sent troops to fight us over a few wells of 'restricted' oil, some resource that never concerned us... It hardly touched upon us... It did not even pollute most of us yet... Thank you. You have just awakened us to fight back... What for, you ask? For our dignity... For our bread (forget the butter)... For our rights... Think about it, amigos... American University Graduates in Jordan.

Moscow's stance angers Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

issue be tied to a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian question," a leftist Jordanian politician noted.

Moreover, some recall with bitterness that the Soviet Union, unlike the U.S., has never pushed for equally strong resolutions concerning the Palestinian question.

Observers compare the U.S. successive vetoes to kill relatively mild Security Council resolutions to stop Israeli oppression of the Palestinian

But other politicians here warned that was unrealistic for Iraq and the Arabs to expect Soviet support, particularly after the collapse of the communist bloc.

A veteran member of the Jordanian Communist Party, who insists that he understood and identified with popular frustration said that Jordanians could not accept the changing ally.

"We can no longer rely on automatic Soviet support. This is a reality as we have to take into consideration prior to any Arab step," the Communist, who preferred anonymity, said.

According to the Commun-

ist activist, the Soviet attitude should have been prior to Iraq's calculations prior to its takeover of Kuwait.

More and more people in Jordan are convinced that the cold war between the erstwhile communist bloc and the capitalist world is emerging into an open conflict between the North and South.

"The Gulf crisis is the strongest manifestation of the new form of conflict," one analyst said.

As Jordanians have been watching the international community mobilise against Iraq, many like to think that small countries, like Jordan, Yemen and Cuba might be the only states holding out against American control.

Western arguments that the Gulf crisis did not represent a conflict between the North and South, but an international alliance against a dictatorship, are widely resented here.

"Moscow did not react forcefully when Saddam Hussein cracked down on Iraqi communists in the late seventies, while the U.S. has a long record of supporting dictators," said a political activist born in Iraq but who has been living in exile for the last decade.

But what seems to be the most disappointing in the Soviet position, according to several Jordanian political activists, is that Jordan has been pressing for years for greater role for the Soviet Union in Middle East peace process.

"It is so ironic that the Soviet role has always been a source of difference between Jordan and the U.S., but now it is Moscow which seems to be handing over the area to complete American influence," said one observer.

U.S. expels Iraqi diplomats

(Continued from page 1)

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ministers, meeting in Vienna, were moving Monday towards an agreement allowing the oil-producing nations to temporarily raise production to help fill the gap caused by the Gulf crisis, sources said.

Ten of the 11 OPEC members at the informal meeting agreed in principle to authorise an increase. Only Iran opposed the move, the sources quoted by the AP said. The two remaining members, Iraq and Kuwait, were not represented.

Qatar, situated on a Gulf peninsula 400 kilometres south of Kuwait, offered the use of its military facilities to multinational forces enforcing the U.N. embargo.

Denmark offered assistance by dispatching a Corvette warship with its crew of 7.6-centimetre guns to the Gulf. France said it was sending 42 attack helicopters from the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to the Saudi government in answer to a Saudi request.

As the offers were made, military chiefs from nine Western nations met in Paris to plan the enforcement of the U.N. embargo against Iraq. The discussions at the Western European Union meeting were not disclosed.

U.S. French and British warships continued to shadow Iraqi vessels in the Gulf. But they did not make use of their new U.N.-sanctioned authority to use military might to enforce the trade embargo against Iraq.

For its part, Iraq allowed 52 American and 19 Japanese businessmen to leave the country (see page 2).

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Monday that Israel would be unhappy with a settlement to the Gulf crisis that left Saddam Hussein in power.

Arens, interviewed on state-

owned television, also denied a published American report suggesting that Israel was trying to press the United States into war over the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

"We are not pulling anyone to war or anything else," he said. "At the moment we are not involved. Kuwait is more than 1,000 kilometres away. We will be involved if they attack us, however."

Arens said Israel would be pleased if the crisis ended without bloodshed but added: "We'll not be pleased if Saddam Hussein, with his large army and the advanced technology he has developed... would continue to stand in the same place."

Asked specifically if Israel was worried about Saddam staying in power, the minister replied, "If he stays at his post and would still possess the weapons, there will be a place for worry in our country, in the whole region and I think the whole world."

Flow steady

(Continued from page 1)

flow across the Al Ruweished border post. "But, for the next week or so, we have to continue at the same pace since many evacuees have already started on their journey across Iraq to Jordan," said a diplomat. "Considering that the bulk of them is penniless (because of the closure of banks in Kuwait), they cannot retrace their steps and proceed in the Iranian direction," he added.

Hopes were further raised Monday by a report from Poland that a Polish aircraft landed in Baghdad and took off with about 100 people who were working in Kuwait in what was the first direct evacuation flight from the Iraqi capital.

At least one Asian country had lined up two air force transport planes to fly into Baghdad Tuesday and pick up its nationals, but it was not clear whether the flights would be permitted by the Iraqis.

U.N. chief: Time ripe

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq was prepared to compromise on Kuwait's status. He did say his country would listen to any proposal.

U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said the United States will not back down from its insistence that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait. Beyond that, he said, "we're prepared to talk about anything."

A senior Arab military commander said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told him recently that he is willing to pull out of Kuwait provided he can negotiate acceptable terms. The commander spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

But Saddam has indicated he would not allow the return of Kuwait's deposed rulers, the Al Sabah family.

The U.S. administration is expressing hope the Gulf crisis still can be resolved without military conflict, if worldwide economic sanctions force Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

"He's a classic case of someone who is vulnerable to sanctions," Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, contended.

"The strategy is to put maximum pressure on Iraq through the U.N.," Pickering said in a televised interview Monday.

"We're watching if the sanctions are going to bite and how rapidly," Pickering said on the U.S. network NBC. Pickering said Iraq was "heavily dependent on oil exports," and "it might be a month or two before it begins to bite."

President George Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said he, too, sees the possibility of resolving the crisis without war.

Former national security advisers Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski indicated there was room for hope that the Gulf crisis could be resolved short of military conflict.

Kissinger said he believes that "Saddam Hussein is looking for some way out... if we stay firm... we will get it."

Both Scowcroft and Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al Mashat endorsed the concept of a mediating role by Perez de Cuellar.

Mashat contrasted Iraq's "desire for peace" with what he contended was the American "design to have war." He said the U.S. aggressive intentions were demonstrated by the dispatch of offensive weaponry, including Stealth fighter bombers, to Saudi Arabia.

He said the U.S. allegation that Iraq posed a threat to Saudi Arabia "was the biggest deception in history."

Perez de Cuellar said he felt the Gulf crisis had reached such a degree of tension that a personal initiative was "totally indispensable."

He told reporters he would leave Wednesday morning and spend the night in Paris before flying on to Jordan to see Aziz. But he told a questioner that a visit to Baghdad was "not something which I have in mind at this stage."

"My idea is to discuss with the

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Briton, German make confident start at Split

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (R) — Kriss Akabusi and Heike Drechsler made confident starts to their gold medal campaigns when the European Athletics Championships began Monday.

Commonwealth Champion Akabusi ran the fastest time in qualifying for the semifinals in the men's 400 metres hurdles and Drechsler, who took gold in the women's long jump four years ago, headed the qualifiers for Tuesday's final.

The tall East German made an impressive opening leap of 6.92 metres, easily passing the qualifying distance of 6.65 metres, downed her track suit and left the Poljud Stadium without bother-

ing with her second and third jumps. Briton Akabusi, a 31-year-old army officer who turned from straight 400 metres running to hurdles three years ago, clocked a relatively modest time of 50.03 seconds in winning the first heat.

Greece confident over bid to hold '96 Olympics

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The persistent efforts of a French aristocrat paid off in 1896 with the revival of the Olympic Games in Greece.

Now, a century later, Athens is bidding to host the Olympic Games again, this time through its own endeavours.

The Athens '96 Committee, which directs the bid, calls it a "sentimental issue," and says the city has no desire to host any games other than the ones celebrating the 100th birthday of Baron Pierre de Coubertin's brainchild.

"Morally, the games belong to us," Spyros Metaxas, the committee's president, said.

The Olympics were first held in 776 B.C. at Olympia, southwestern Greece, and abolished by an edict of the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius in 393 A.D. following charges of professionalism.

In 1976, then-premier Constantine Karamanlis proposed that the Olympic Games be held permanently in Greece at its birthplace. The games were sinking toward their lowest ebb, the huge budget deficit in Montreal and later were followed by the boycotts of Moscow and Los Angeles. No one seemed to want to play host.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) courteously turned the request down and now has one of the most sought after products in sports. Athens is one of six bidders to be voted on by the IOC in Tokyo Sept. 17-18. The others are Belgrade, Yugoslavia; Melbourne, Australia; Manchester, England; Atlanta, U.S. and Toronto, Canada.

The Athens '96 Committee is recruiting anyone who can play an influential role, from actress-politician Melina Mercouri to popular Greek singer Nana Mouskouri in their attempt to win.

"We're confident that Athens will be ahead after the first round of balloting. We should make it the third time around," claims Dionyssis Gangas, official spokesman for the Athens '96 Organising Committee.

Although the country has never organised an event of such magnitude, Gangas said that Greece has the experience and know-how, with 75 per cent of the Olympic projects to be under construction or in use by mid-1991.

He said that \$1 billion has been budgeted for the Olympic facilities, with the money coming from the weekly soccer pool, sponsors, television rights and tickets to the events.

"Everyone is united behind our efforts to host the games — the

government and the political opposition," Gangas said emphatically.

Hundreds of youths have signed up as volunteers to campaign for the games as well as industrialists and businessmen. Colourful posters with "Athens '96" adorned by an olive wreath, cover buses and walls in major towns and cities throughout the country.

But two small political parties, the Greek Left, which follows a Euro-Communist line and the Environmentalist-Alternative, are opposed to the bid. They claim it will cost the nation more than the \$6 billion budgeted to prepare and hold the 1996 Olympics and harm the environment.

"It's another way of centralising everything in the already crowded Greek capital causing further damage to the environment by diminishing the green belt," charges Thanassis Papaconstantinou, an official of the Environmentalist-Alternative Party.

Statistics show that over 40 per cent of the 10 million people in Greece reside in and around Athens, creating unprecedented traffic bottlenecks, telecommunications problems and increasing air pollution.

"And we all know what happens when the state gets involved in such grand projects. Budgeted costs rise significantly in the name of the Olympic Games. No matter what, we are opposed to holding the event in Greece," Papaconstantinou said.

Gangas describes those opposed to hosting the games as "ugly Greeks."

"We've explained that the projects connected with the Olympic Games will not in any way harm the quality of life and that they will be in full use after the games," added Gangas.

He said that many of the facilities already exist such as the 80,000-seat Athens Olympic Stadium for track and field, basketball and indoor stadiums for gymnastics, soccer fields and the newly completed velodrome for bicycling.

Under construction within the Olympic complex located in Kallithea on the edge of the capital is the main gymnasium, which will hold 18,000 spectators; a swimming pool complex comprising closed and open pools with a seating capacity of about 15,000; and red-clay tennis courts with a 10,000-seat centre court capacity.

The Olympic Village housing the athletes and officials will be constructed at the foot of Mount Parnes, 32 kilometres from Athens.

seconds.

His compatriot May Robertson returned the second best time of the day, winning his heat in 50.27 seconds on a morning when the scorching heat did nothing to assist fast running.

Sven Nylander of Sweden, bronze medalist at the last European Championships in Stuttgart, West Germany, in 1986, won his heat in 50.28 seconds.

In the women's long jump, Larisa Berezhnaya of the Soviet Union produced the second best distance with a 6.91-metre leap of her second attempt.

Helga Radtke of East Germany, bronze medalist four years ago, was fifth among the 12 qualifiers with 6.74 metres.

Sainz wins 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (Agencies) — Championship leader Carlos Sainz of Spain held off a determined late challenge from Finland's Ari Vatanen to become the first non-Nordic driver to win the 1,000 Lakes Rally.

After four days and 1,604 kilometres, Sainz, in a Toyota Celica, finished just 19 seconds ahead of Vatanen in a Mitsubishi Galant.

Sainz's third victory of the season left him 48 points clear at the top of the Drivers' World Championship standings with four rounds to go after closest rival Didier Auriol of France did not finish.

Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson was third in a Mitsubishi Galant, almost five minutes behind Sainz, and six-times winner Markku Alen in a Subaru Legacy overcame persistent braking problems to finish fourth.

Sainz, only the third non-Finn since 1959 to win the 1,000 Lakes, seemed to struggle during some of Sunday's eight stages. He led Vatanen by 48 seconds overnight but lost nine seconds on the first stage.

In the search for speed, Vatanen asked his mechanics to strip everything that was not vital from the car to lighten it and even had them wash under the wheel arches to remove mud.

With one stage to do he was 25 seconds behind the Spaniard but could only shave another six seconds off the deficit.

Meanwhile Australian organisers Monday announced that defending champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland will head a 67-car field for next month's Rally Australia.

The rally is the eighth leg of the World Manufacturers' Championship and the 10th leg of the World Drivers' Championship.

Former world champion Kankkunen won last year's inaugural rally in a Toyota, but now drives for the Lancia team.

Lendl wins Tournament of Champions

FOREST HILLS, New York (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia took advantage of ten double faults by American Aaron Krickstein to beat him 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 in the finals of the \$350,000 WCT Tournament of Champions.

Lendl, now number three in the world, needed just under three hours for the victory. Both players suffered from dehydration and exhaustion, compounded by a rain-delayed schedule Friday that necessitated their each playing four matches in three days.

Lendl struck first, breaking serve in the fifth game of the match. Krickstein broke back three games later, but the top-seeded Czech immediately returned that break and served out the first set.

After the ninth-ranked and third-seeded Krickstein took the second set in a tight tiebreaker, he jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the third set and looked headed to win his second career victory over Lendl in as many tries.

But Lendl, aided by four

Krickstein double faults in the 18-point fourth game, broke the American and went on to win six consecutive games to take the set. Lendl, who has only played in one tournament since Wimbledon, said he was looking forward to some serious match play in this tournament. With rain earlier this week doubling up the schedule, he was forced to play four matches in three days, plus two rounds of doubles.

Both players are scheduled to play their first round matches in the U.S. Open Tuesday.

Graf defeats Capriati in Jersey Women's Classic

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — West German Steffi Graf blew a match point in the second set and was extended in the third before putting away rookie pro Jennifer Capriati 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the \$160,000 Women's Tennis Classic at Ramapo College.

Graf's victory over the 14-year-old American made her the first player to win the title three consecutive years. She also won in 1986.

Capriati fared much better against the world's number one-ranked player than in their first meeting in the fourth round at Wimbledon, when Graf easily dominated her 6-2, 6-4.

"I made too many mistakes when I had a chance to go to 4-1 in the second set," said the 21-year-old Graf, who needed nearly two hours for the win in 100-degree heat.

Graf, who is seeded first in this week's U.S. Open, plays her opening-round match Monday. Capriati, seeded 13th in the open, could face a rematch with Graf if they both advance to the fourth round.

Graf said she played the match like the exhibition it was.

"People take it too seriously and are so tense about it," she said. "I was practising my shots and tried some that I would not have done if it was a regular tournament. I went too quickly for shots and wasn't too patient and my forehand was awful."

Capriati, who said the loss was good preparation for future matches with Graf, was happy with her three-set performance.

"I came to win and don't care if it was an exhibition. I was playing for my pride," said Capriati, who reached the semifinals of the French Open. "I think I put some doubts into her mind that I can get close."

Behind 5-3 in the second set, Capriati overcame a match point to reel off four successive games and take the set.

She then broke Graf in the eighth game of the third set to level the score at 4-4. The young American got to 15-15 before committing three errors in a row. Graf finished her off in the 10th game with a backhand drop shot that Capriati sent out of play.

"It was close and could have gone either way at the end," Graf said.

Edberg beats Ivanisevic to win Hamlet Challenge

COMMACK, New York (AP) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the world's top-ranked player, warmed up for the U.S. Open with a 7-6, (7-3), 6-3 victory over Yugoslavia's 18-year-old Goran Ivanisevic Sunday in the Hamlet Challenge Cup.

It was the 21st straight match victory for Edberg since he lost to Boris Becker. He has won Wimbledon, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and the Hamlet in that span.

It was a hard match, said Edberg. "The humidity was tough to cope with but I was prepared."

Now, it's on to the open for Edberg. "It probably will get hotter the next few days at the U.S. Open, too," he said. "But I'm ready for it. This has been a good week for me, four good matches."

Edberg won \$32,800 to bring his year's prize money total to \$1,131,981 and his career account to \$6,670,595.

Ivanisevic, a slender 1.93-metre left-hander who climbed from No. 371 to his current status as 15th, played some of the best tennis of the tournament during the week on the strength of a powerful service.

He started strongly on service against Edberg, allowing only seven points in six service games on the way to the tiebreaker.

But after producing two aces in the first and again in the third games against Edberg, he lost his touch on first serves and was also called for footfaults.

Edberg had his problems zeroing in during the early games. He needed four game points in a 14-point second game to hold service and again had to rally to hold in the sixth game after losing a 40-15 edge.

He got help from Ivanisevic in the tiebreaker when the Yugoslavian youth misfired two volleys and fell behind, 1-4.

Edberg retained the momentum into the second set, reaching a 3-0 lead. He gave up only six points in five service games in this set.

Edberg, who beat Boris Becker in the final of Wimbledon, likes his chance of winning the U.S. Open for the first time.

"I don't have any fear of it this year," said Edberg, a semifinalist in 1986 and 1987 but only a fourth-rounder the past two years. "It's full of terrible circumstances like bad weather, noisy fans, the planes, traffic. There is a lot to be frustrated about, and generally that makes it an open open. You have to be strong to win it."

Edberg figures if he can't win it, the title might go to defending champion Becker, three-time winner Ivan Lendl or two-time semifinalist Andre Agassi.

Agassi, runner-up at the French Open, skipped Wimbledon to devote himself to practice and iron-pumping exercises for an assault on the U.S. Open, the tournament he considers the most important in the world.

Agassi, 20, is one of the new aces building his game on power. But unless he fulfills his promise soon, he may be passed by the game's hardest young server, Goran Ivanisevic, the Yugoslavian who beat Becker in the French Open and came close to topping him in the Wimbledon semifinals.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 28, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Odd events can occur today, causing disturbances and problems that can prove to be especially vexing if you try to deal with them head on. Adopt a wait and see attitude.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to force no amusements or entertainments but to take a casual glance at whatever is going on about you and not to commit yourself to extra duties.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind to make a point of where home or family conditions are concerned should be postponed until a more propitious time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A day that could be spent sorting out the various schools of thought that are most acceptable for you to use in your everyday activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Keep off the subject of finances and proper matters even though an expert informing you to make some decisions for whatever reason.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are disappointed with some secret worry and want to get off where you can start a new life from a new stance but it will not be productive.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You feel you don't express yourself as you wish and think if you get rid of some current condition that will solve the problem but it won't.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You would like to be off on a jaunt with good friends and unusual personalities today but rather make more results by sticking to your present course of action.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider what could put you behind the eight ball in public or any worldly interests or activities and steer clear or potential in this matter.

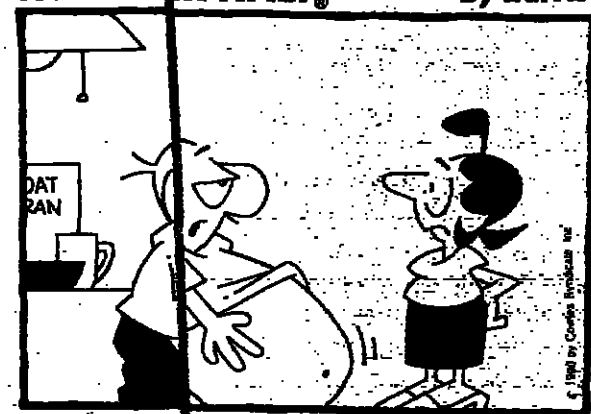
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You yearn to be off to some new and different expressions but this is just the day when you would find them most unsatisfactory.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't let the feelings you have be more burdens on your shoulders than you can bear but make sure you show you can be objective in attending to them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now some amazing conditions come to light that you would be wise to put aside for the moment and concentrate upon your private concerns.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A day to accept surrounding conditions as they are and to avoid showing discontent to those who are your usual companions.

THE BETER HALF.

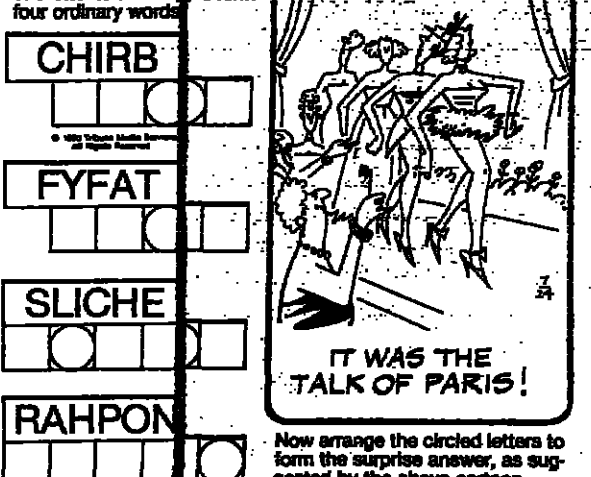


Print and here: "OAT BRAN"

(Answers tomorrow)

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these jumbles, one letter to each box, to form four ordinary words.



Print and here: "CHIRB, FYFAT, SLICHE, RAHPON"

(Answers tomorrow)

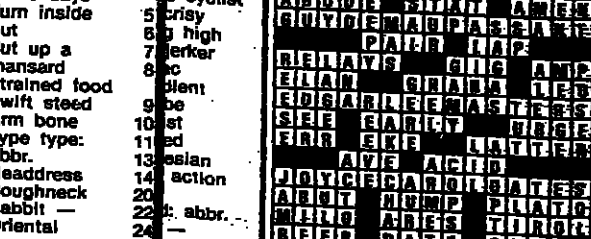
Yesterday's Jumble LOGIC TABOO NAUSEA BISHOP

Answer: That earnest agent couldn't hold onto his job because he couldn't hold this—HIS TONGUE.

THE Daily crossword by Betty Jorgensen



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



42 From — Z
43 Holiday time
44 Metropolis
45 Fear
46 Story
47 Gay
48 Cozomb

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

'GIVE THE FIEND HIS DUE'

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5
♥ J 5 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ A Q J 6 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 3
♥ Q 10 8 7
♦ J 10 8 3
♣ K 9

SOUTH
♠ A K J
♥ A 9 6 3
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ 7 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
Be wary if someone hands you a suit combination and asks: "How do you play this holding?" The correct response is: "For how many tricks?"

This hand illustrates the point nicely. The auction was accurate and fast. The play was as speedy, but way off target.

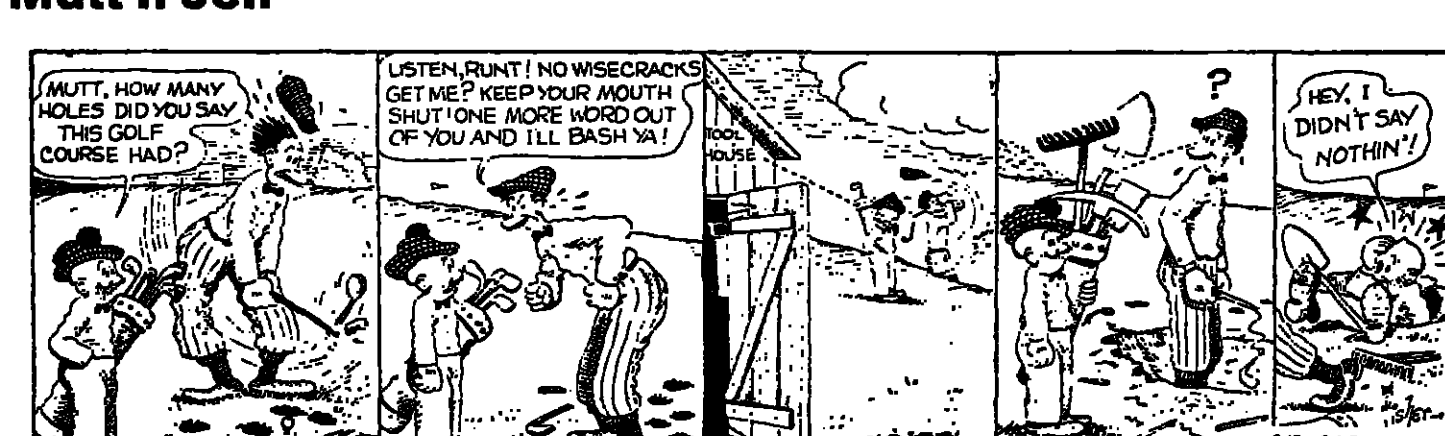
West led a spade, taken in the closed hand. Declarer finessed the jack of clubs, and East made an excellent play by letting dummy

hold the trick. Not unnaturally, declarer returned to hand and repeated the finesse. When it lost and the suit broke 4-2, as was only to be expected, declarer found that, without an enemy error, there was no way to come to nine tricks. Down one.

Had declarer needed four tricks from the club suit, or had there been another entry to the table, his play of the hand would have been absolutely correct. But declarer had six tricks in the other suits, so three club tricks would have been enough for game. And there was only one side-suit entry to the board.

To assure the contract against anything but an outlandish club split, declarer should simply have ducked a club at trick two. Suppose East were to win the nine and return a spade. (No other return would make a difference.) Declarer wins and now takes the club finesse. East wins and clears declarer's last spade stopper, but declarer can get to dummy with the king of diamonds to take three club tricks and, with them, his contract. True, declarer might have taken 11 tricks with a successful club finesse and a lucky break, but why rely on Dame Fortune rather than winning technique?

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom right.

S. African police report 10 more deaths Blacks hold protest strike

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Tens of thousands of blacks in the Soweto township stayed away from work Monday to call for peace and to protest faction fighting that has claimed more than 500 lives in the past two weeks.

Police, meanwhile, said 10 blacks were killed over the weekend in the eastern province of Natal, the site of black-on-black political violence since 1986.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, addressing a funeral for seven people killed in Soweto, told a roaring crowd that police actions, not tribal divisions, were fuelling the conflict.

"We have never quarrelled because of tribalism," Tutu told some 5,000 African National Congress (ANC) supporters at a Soweto amphitheatre. "The evidence is overwhelming that the

police have not been impartial." Most of the fighting in Soweto and other townships around Johannesburg has pitted Zulus loyal to the conservative Inkatha Movement against Xhosa and other blacks who support the ANC, the country's largest black political organisation.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other anti-apartheid figures have accused police of siding with Inkatha, a charge police deny.

The government and many neutral observers portray the conflict as mostly tribal fighting linked to the power struggle between the ANC and Inkatha.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has blamed the ANC for instigating the fighting, which has resulted in some of the worst violence since nationwide unrest during the mid-1980s. Buthelezi

says the ANC wants to crush all opposition.

"Our freedom is at hand," Tutu said to tumultuous cheers. "And there are those (whites) who say they don't want us to have our freedom... so they have made us fight one another."

Heavily armed soldiers and police ringed the amphitheatre, but no incidents were reported. Buses, taxis and trains in Soweto were carrying roughly a third as many passengers as usual into neighbouring Johannesburg.

Many schools were closed and the main streets in the township of 2.5 million people were mostly empty.

The general strike was called by the anti-apartheid Soweto Civic Association to "protest the violence, police behaviour and to mourn our dead." Residents in neighbouring townships also took

part. A group of Xhosa and Zulu tribal chiefs sympathetic to the ANC toured the townships Sunday and said the violence was "not a Zulu-Xhosa conflict, but has its roots in the system of apartheid."

"The problem is the collaboration between the police and Inkatha," said Mwele Nonkanyana, a Xhosa chief.

The delegation, which included seven Xhosa and six Zulu chiefs, said it did not represent any political party. But the chiefs all belong to the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, a group with close ties to the ANC.

The Zulus and the Xhosa are the two largest tribes in South Africa, but townships in the Johannesburg area have blacks from all 10 major tribes in the country.

African force seizes Liberian rebel ship

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Two Nigerian warships of the West African peacekeeping force captured a gunboat carrying weapons for Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor, the force communications commander said.

Lt.-Col. John Dungs said the two ships were transporting Taylor's rebel leader, Prince Johnson, to Freetown to make flight connections for a meeting in Banjul, Gambia, when they encountered the gunboat. No other details were available.

Meanwhile, nine soldiers of the five-nation force who were in-

jured during clashes with Taylor's rebels during the weekend in Monrovia were airlifted to U.S. Navy vessels offshore for medical treatment, said Abass Bundu, executive secretary of the Economic Community of West African States, which ordered the 3,000 troops to enter Liberia to end the eight-month-old tribal war there.

The U.S. ships are providing support for several squads of U.S. Marines who are guarding the U.S. embassy in Monrovia. Bundu said none of the peacekeeping force had been killed.

The force includes troops from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra

Leone, Gambia and Guinea.

Their introduction was opposed by Taylor, who accuses them of supporting embattled President Samuel Doe. Doe and Taylor's rival, Johnson, have negotiated a truce and have welcomed the peacekeeping force.

The two Nigerian frigates that captured the rebel gunboat, in addition to a Ghanaian frigate, were expected to pick up more men, supplies and armaments before returning to Monrovia, where the force landed Friday night. It already has advanced out of the port area and secured some of the city.

Sri Lankan army moves on besieged Jaffna Fort

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka troops advancing to break a siege around a garrison in northern Jaffna town have been slowed by rebel resistance and landmines, military sources said Monday.

"It may take two to three days to reach the fort. Anti-personnel mines and rebels hiding in run-down buildings have slowed the operation," a senior military officer said.

In other fighting, 100 soldiers were dropped by helicopter on Monday at Mullaitivu on the northeast coast, where Tamil rebels have attacked an army for the past week.

The officer said three soldiers had been killed and 31 seriously wounded in fighting at the weekend.

"The reinforcements will relieve the weary soldiers inside the camp. We are trying to airlift the injured to nearby hospitals," he said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been attacking army camps with mortars and rocket fire in the north since June, when they launched a new offensive.

The group, fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east where most of the 2.5 million minority Tamils live, broke off year-long peace talks with the government.

Since June they have laid siege to the 350-year-old colonial fort in Jaffna town, attacking it almost daily.

Both sides have suffered casualties. The 200 soldiers and policemen trapped in the garrison have resupplied attempts by the rebels to storm the fort. But the men are short of food and medicine.

Most of their supplies have to be dropped by helicopters which are forced to fly high to escape the Tiger guns.

Military sources said up to 2,500 troops captured Mandaitivu island, about 2.4 kilometres away from the fort, Saturday. The garrison is linked to the island by a causeway across a lagoon.

The sources said that soldiers on Mandaitivu were using artillery on buildings on the mainland where the Tigers have put up bunkers.

"We have to clear those bunkers and also the causeway which is full of landmines. We don't want to get trapped in the open lagoon," one source said.

Since the operation began Wednesday, airborne fighter planes have been bombing rebel targets in Jaffna.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the aim was to lift the siege and clear rebels from surrounding areas.

Among the confirmed dead are Malaysians Chen Wei-Chi, four, Chen Wei-Chieh, seven, and Yang Li-Chun, 20. In addition to Robert Crossman, the bodies of two other Britons, Bruce Robson, 48, and Sally Aylwin, 47, have been identified.

Police said they believed the cruiser was overcrowded and operating without a commercial licence. It may have also lacked proper life saving equipment, they said.

"We couldn't see any life saving equipment when we towed it in, but we're not sure what happened when it went into the water," an officer at the lake said by telephone.

Police said many windows on the three-decked cruiser were fixed, making escape difficult. They added no boats were allowed on the lake after 5 p.m. the accident occurred after nine p.m. (1300 GMT).

Differences on abortion cause Germanys to disagree on unity

BONN, West Germany (AP) — An opposition leader demanded Monday that the government within two days reverse its decision that West German women can be penalised for taking advantage of East Germany's liberal abortion law after unity.

The Social Democrats threatened to veto a treaty meshing the two Germanys' laws if Chancellor Helmut Kohl doesn't change his mind by Wednesday.

Kohl and top members of his coalition met for four hours until early Monday morning with Social Democrat leaders in search of smooth passage for the treaty in the legislature.

But hours of negotiations failed to break a stalemate over the abortion issue.

Kohl's government made a controversial decision last week that West German women should be prosecuted if they travel to East Germany for abortions after Oct. 3 unity.

The Social Democrats insist West Germany's stiffer abortion law cannot be extended to East German turf.

Another round of negotiations is set for Wednesday.

Herta Daubler-Gmelin, a top Social Democratic lawmaker, de-

manded that Kohl reverse his position. She pointed out that Kohl would never get the two-thirds majority needed in parliament to pass the final unity treaty without the backing of the Social Democrats, West Germany's second-largest party.

"He wants a treaty and must have the majority," she said. Ms. Daubler-Gmelin said passage of the treaty is not absolutely necessary for unity, and that the West German parliament could pass interim measures for meshing the two Germanys' laws if need be.

The treaty will cover various issues, including distribution of sales tax revenues among the German states, how to settle claims by West Germans seeking the return of their former property in East Germany, and abortion.

Failure to pass the treaty would not jeopardize the Oct. 3 date set for the unification of the two German states.

But it would mean that most West German laws would go into force in East Germany after unity takes place, a move East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has said would not serve the best interests of his compatriots.

East Germans are increasingly

unsettled by the prospect of simply being absorbed by their richer neighbour and having to adjust to an entirely new economic and legal system.

Politicians in both countries, women's groups and government officials have been debating for weeks over the most desirable abortion law for a united Germany.

While the Social Democrats are pro-choice, Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats support restrictions on a woman's right to an abortion.

East German women have a legal right to an abortion within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

But the West German law is much more restrictive, requiring that women prove their pregnancy is life-threatening, caused by rape or incest, or could create severe social and economic hardship.

Participants in the Bonn meeting called by Kohl to meet again Wednesday said further talks on the treaty.

They did agree to an all-German parliament that would adopt rules governing abortion that would apply throughout the country. Elections for the all-German legislature are set for Dec. 2.

Typhoon claims 180 lives in China

PEKING (AP) — The death toll from typhoon Yancy, which hit coastal China last week, has risen to at least 183, an official report said Monday.

In Fujian province, which was hardest hit, 111 people died — 84 crushed by collapsing buildings, 25 drowned and two electrocuted, the China Daily said.

About 4.14 million people in Fujian lost their homes, 171,300 hectares (423,111 acres) of farmland were destroyed, 31,008

buildings collapsed and 447 bridges washed away, the report said.

An earlier report said the flooding would reduce Fujian's grain output this year by about 100 million pounds (45 million kilograms).

Rainfall topped 100 millimetres from August 19-23 in 61 Fujian counties. In Fujian county, more than 500 millimetres fell.

Earlier reports said the typhoon struck the coast of Fujian three times over the course

of one day last week. The province had already been hit by four typhoons in the past two months, Monday's report said.

In neighbouring Zhejiang province, 61 people were killed and nearly 300 injured by a storm, which caused an estimated 300 million yuan (\$43 million) economic losses, the paper said.

Floods caused by typhoon Yancy in south China Guangdong province killed 11 people and injured 38 others, it said.

Japanese islands issue still blocks progress in Tokyo-Moscow talks

TOKYO (AP) — As a measure of how difficult the issues are between Japan and the Soviet Union, it may be considered progress that the two nations agree a peace treaty would mean disputes dating from World War II have been solved.

"That, of course, is the definition of a peace treaty."

But such basic reasoning is what Japanese diplomats are resorting to in a painstaking search for positive signs beckoning them further along the path in tortuous talks with the Soviets.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will be in Tokyo next week for three days of negotiations with Taro Nakayama, his Japanese counterpart. The centerpiece, as always, will be Japan's demand for the Soviets to return a string of is-

lands grabbed in the last days of World War II.

The issue blocks agreement on a treaty officially ending the brief Soviet-Japanese hostilities during the war. Frosty relations continue between the two countries even as much of the rest of the world enjoys the end of the cold war.

Briefing reporters Monday on Shevardnadze's visit, a Foreign Ministry official said the two sides could not even agree to use the term "territorial dispute" to describe their root problem.

Yet he found a modest plus in the Soviet's willingness to say that an eventual peace pact could resolve the Japan-Soviet border and cover "the geographical aspects" of a treaty.

"Where will it lead to, I don't know," he said, speaking on condition he not be identified. "I'm

not optimistic, but I hope there will be sincere efforts by both sides to try to make progress towards finding some common ground."

In preparatory meetings earlier this year, diplomats from two countries agreed that peace treaties would end war disputes, could strengthen diplomatic relations and should serve security interests of both sides, the official said.

But he conceded such "converging views" could mask the "fundamental discrepancy" over the Soviet islands.

Shevardnadze's visit is to lay the groundwork for Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's trip to Japan expected in spring, the first by a Soviet leader.

Indonesia ends press censorship

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia said at the weekend it was ending press censorship unless national security was at risk but local editors received the news with some scepticism.

"Reporters are no longer restricted. They can write any news as long as it does not violate the code of ethics of the Indonesian Journalists' Association and national interests," Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security Sudomo said.

He was quoted as telling the Merdeka newspaper group the issue was discussed at a security meeting last week.

There would be no more phone calls from officials to editors telling them what they could print. "It is better that we gather the reporters and brief them on issues

that might endanger national interests." Articles in foreign newspapers would no longer be blacked out.

President Suharto's government, in power for almost quarter of a century, has kept tight control of the domestic press and recently embarked on its toughest censorship of the foreign media in more than two years.

"So far it's just a statement. That kind of statement has been issued before. The important thing is what is the reality," said one senior editor who said the Indonesian media were still heavily restricted.

Sudomo's comments follow a call by Suharto on Aug. 16 in his Independence Day speech for more open exchange of views.

The latest campaign of censorship has largely related to

foreign media coverage of a dissident group for more democracy for Suharto to relinquish power.

Local newspapers did report the announcement before the president's speech.

Sudomo, a close aide to Suharto, said while the government did not issue any ban, statements earlier this month by the group were outside the situation and therefore violated the Journalists' Association.

"Why be afraid, what is the nation like if it is haunted by fear," Sudomo was quoted as saying after he warned the press against publishing what he called "slandering opinions."

65 bodies found in Yugoslav mine

DOBRINJA, Yugoslavia (R) — Rescue workers have found the bodies of 65 miners killed in a coal mine explosion in central Yugoslavia, officials said Monday.

They were among about 178 miners trapped 500 metres underground by the blast in the Kreka Lignite Mine in Dobrinja Sunday.

The officials said all the men were feared dead but rescue teams were still searching the mine.

The bodies have not yet been removed from the mine, which was ripped apart by the explosion and resulting fireball.

Authorities said the blast probably was caused by methane gas

or coal dust.

Mine officials feared it would be Yugoslavia's worst mining disaster this century, exceeding the 128 killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1965.

Rescue work in the mine, about 140 kilometres south west of Belgrade, has been hampered by explosive gases, high temperatures and a lack of transport.

"We cannot determine precisely when the bodies will be taken out of the pit because it would depend on repairing the area and making the transport system functional," the rescue teams said in a statement.

Rescue workers restored ventilation in the mine but gave up

hope of finding anyone alive after digging through rubble and twisted metal all day Sunday.

"I've not seen anything like it in 10 years as a rescue worker," said Sulejman Hasic, haggard and covered in coal dust.

"There's rubble blocking our way. The heat is almost unbearable. Carrying anyone out will be hell."

The blast sent chunks of concrete flying high into the air and drove a ball of fire out of the entrance, witnesses said.

It was the second mine disaster in Yugoslavia in less than a year. Ninety-one people were killed in a fire at the Aleksinac pit in Serbia last November.

Filipino army rebels threaten bloodless coup

MANILA (R) — Army rebels under cashed Colonel Gregorio Honasan, in a letter published in Manila papers Monday, said they would launch a bloodless takeover to oust President Corason Aquino soon and replace her with a civilian-military junta.

"There will simply be a peaceful breakaway or withdrawal of support from a reign of greed, lust and terror and announcement of support to a multi-partisan and multi-sectoral civilian executive council," Honasan said in the letter.

Aquino has survived six previous coup attempts, including the most serious one last December when at least 113 people died and 600 were wounded before loyal troops crushed the revolt.

But the military commander in charge of defending Manila against a coup said a rebel success would result in civil war.

Major-General Rodolfo Biazon, deputy chief-of-staff of the Philippine Armed Forces told a forum:

"If a coup succeeds, whoever is going to rule this country will have to handle a resurgence of the Communist New People's Army and Muslim rebels, contend with political warlords, and even contend with soldiers" (who opposed the coup).

Protesters reoccupy Bucharest square

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — About 300 anti-government demonstrators reoccupied a central square in the capital over the weekend after a clash with police in which 48 people arrested and two reportedly hurt.

The latest arrests brought to 80 the number of people detained in and around the square in the past week, police said in a communiqué Sunday.

On Saturday night, a clash erupted after police moved in, armed with clubs and shields. At least two people were reported hospitalised.

The police communiqué called on the public to support the authorities and "disassociate themselves from the destabilising demonstrations of ill-intentioned

elements, which can create dangerous tensions."

On Sunday, demonstrators at the square shouted slogans demanding the resignation of President Ion Iliescu.

Critics accuse Iliescu and his associates, who won free elections earlier this year, of keeping many of the policies of the authoritarian Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu. Ceausescu and his wife Elena were ousted and executed in December's popular uprising.

The demonstrators at University Square, located at the main intersection on the capital's fashionable Balescu Boulevard, disrupted traffic and forced motorists to use side streets.

Taiwan lake accident death toll reaches 58

TAIPEI (R) — The final death from one of Taiwan's worst boating accidents will probably reach 58, police said Monday, as the six-year-old son of Shell Taiwan's president, originally listed as rescued, was declared dead.

Police said they had identified the body of Robert Crossman, son of Shell Taiwan President J.D. Crossman, who survived.

They said the boy had been mistakenly included in the list of those rescued after Saturday's accident, when a cruiser carrying Shell oil employees and their families capsized in 60 metres of water on a scenic lake.

Julia Crossman, Robert's mother, is among the 26 people still listed as missing.

Police said more than 200 searchers had recovered 32 bodies since the accident on Sun Moon Lake in the mountains 760 metres above sea level in central Taiwan.

A total of 34 people, including the boat's pilot, survived the accident — five Britons, one Australian, five Malaysians and 23 Chinese.

A Shell statement Monday said 88 of those on board were employees and their families of Shell Taiwan.

Among the confirmed dead are Malaysians Chen Wei-Chi, four, Chen Wei-Chieh, seven, and Yang Li-Chun, 20. In addition to Robert Crossman, the bodies of two other Britons, Bruce Robson, 48, and Sally Aylwin, 47, have been identified.

Police said they believed the cruiser was overcrowded and operating without a commercial licence.

It may have also lacked proper life saving equipment, they said. "We couldn't see any life saving equipment when we towed it in, but we're not sure what happened when it went into the water," an officer at the lake said by telephone.

Police said many windows on the three-decked cruiser were fixed, making escape difficult. They added no boats were allowed on the lake after 5 p.m. the accident occurred after nine p.m. (1300 GMT).

COLUMN

'Won't do no good to call' police tell callers

WELLINGTON (R) — Telephone callers to a Wellington police station may be given this advice: "It won't do no good to call. The police always come late — if they come at all." It's a line from a record by U.S. singer Tracy Chapman, which Lower Hutt Police Station plays to callers put on hold. Some New Zealanders complain that the police, stretched by rising crime in a traditionally peaceful country, are slow to respond to emergency calls. With a general election due on Oct. 27, Lower Hutt police are also playing a Tracy Chapman track called "Talkin' 'bout a revolution." But they aren't trying to make a political statement, according to a senior officer. They just like the music.

Pickled parrots dice with death

SYDNEY (R) — Intoxicated parrots are mixing drinking and driving with fatal results in Australia's sugar cane capital. The parrots are drinking fermented raw sugar off the roads, forgetting how to fly and being plastered by passing traffic. "All we could see was this squashed mass of green and more (birds) still eating the sugar on the road," said Rosalyn Leslie, a resident of Bundaberg in Queensland, Monday. "We stopped, beeped our horn and got out to try to shoot them off the road. But they were silly on the sugar and refused to move." Dew settles on the roads overnight, dissolving the raw sugar spilt by trucks transporting cane, local sugar officials say. The sun then ferments the mixture.

Tom King to take a different plunge

OAK HILL, West Virginia (AP) — Tom King plans to take a plunge of a different sort on his wedding day. He says he will have his bride, a former Miss America, high bridge. King plans to wed Vivian Campbell on Oct. 20 during the annual Bridge Day festivities at the New River Gorge Bridge. Then he plans to do a parachute and jump into the gorge, along with two groomsmen and several wedding guests. Bridge Day is the only day of the year people can legally jump off the bridge, one of North America's tallest. The event attracts hundreds of parachutists from around the world. King, 39, and Campbell, 34, both of Memphis, Tennessee, got engaged on Bridge Day last year.

More French preferring water to wine

PARIS (R) — One French adult in two never drinks wine and only one in five imbibes every day, according to a new poll. Many prefer water. The poll, conducted by the French National Wine Office, testifies to a huge drop in wine consumption in a country that produces more than six billion litres (1.6 billion gallons) a year. In 1980, fewer than two in 10 French men and women never drank wine and one out of three drank wine every day. The poll shows that: Most non-drinkers shun wine because they don't like the taste, not for health reasons.

Polanski can send lawyer to defend him

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Film director Roman Polanski, a fugitive since 1977 for having sex with a 13-year-old girl, can send a lawyer to defend himself against a lawsuit filed by the victim, a state appeals court ruled. In a 2-1 ruling Monday, the court said Polanski did not forfeit the right to defend himself by his "reprehensible, irresponsible and unlawful absence." A lawyer for the woman said the ruling will be appealed to the state Supreme Court. Polanski pleaded guilty in 1977 to unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor at the home of actor Jack Nicholson. He fled before being sentenced and now lives in Paris. The unidentified victim sued in 1988 for damages for physical and emotional distress. The woman asked for a default ruling against Polanski, that is, a ruling declaring him the loser. She argued that a fugitive should not be allowed to use the courts to defend himself. Superior Court Judge George Dell refused to find Polanski in default and the appeals court agreed.

أخبار من الشرق الأوسط